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ABSTRACT

This "experience guide," developed by a teacher who traveled in the region, aims to provide information on the culture, history, society, geography, and political aspects of Egypt and Israel. Intended for teachers, the guide can enhance lessons in world history. Each segment summarizes a topic and provides questions designed to encourage research, discussion, and debate. A separate booklet contains photographs and maps of the region. Segments in the guide are: (1) "The Egyptian Museum"; (2) "The Pyramids at Giza"; (3) "Recording History"; (4) "The Coptic Religion"; (5) "Cairo, the Capital of Egypt"; (6) "The Hanging Church"; (7) "The Jewish Community in Egypt"; (8) "Mosque of Al Rifa'i and the Muslim Religion"; (9) "Mosque of Sultan Hassan"; (10) "Greco-Roman History in Egypt"; (11) "Alexandria"; (12) "Education in Egypt"; (13) "Bedouin Society"; (14) "Borders: Peace and Conflict"; (15) "The Arts"; (16) "Temples of Luxor and Karnak"; (17) "Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens"; (18) "Edfu Temple"; (19) "High Dam at Aswan"; (20) "The Nubians"; (21) "Abu Simbel"; (22) "Jerusalem, Israel"; (23) "Education in Israel"; (24) "Religions of Israel"; (25) "The Military"; (26) "Church of the Holy Sepulcher"; (27) "Synagogues"; (28) "The Christianity in Jerusalem"; (29) "Western Wall and Tunnel"; (30) "The Land"; (31) "Bet She'an National Park"; (32) "Bet Alpha Synagogue"; (33) "Golan Heights"; (34) "The Druze"; (35) "Bet Shearam"; (36) "The Diaspora"; (37) "Yitzhak Rabin"; (38) "The Holocaust"; (39) "Ben Gurion"; (40) "The Dead Sea"; (41) "Masada"; and (42) "The Kibbutz." (BT)

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AN EXPERIENCE GUIDE

EGYPT AND ISRAEL

2000

Laura Feijoo

Fulbright-Hayes Scholarship Program

Summer Seminars Abroad 2000

Curriculum Guide

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Note to the Teacher

This Experience Guide is meant to be just that, my experiences and knowledge of these locations as I traveled as a participant in the Fulbright-Hayes Summer Seminars Abroad 200 Program. It is in no way comprehensive in its information. My goal is to provide some brief information on the culture, history, society, geography and political aspects of these regions. I hope that this information enhances your lessons in world history.

The questions at the end of every segment of this guide are intended to encourage discussion and debate on key topic. They are often research questions that are intended to promote exploration in a variety of subjects related to these regions.

This document contains photographs that could not be displayed through this medium. If you are interested in obtaining the images that accompany this curriculum guide please contact the author. These color images will be sent on a zip disk formatted for the MacIntosh system. Please your name and address with $3.00 for postage to:

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34-65 192 Street
Flushing, New York 11358

If you have any questions you can correspond to the same address.

Egyptian Museum

1. The Egyptian Museum

The Egyptian Museum was founded in Bylaq in 1858 by the French Archeologist August Mariette and moved to this neo-classical building on Midan el-Tahrir in 1902. This building contains some of the world's most extraordinary antiquities including Kind Tutankhamun's treasures, jewelry belonging to the pharaohs, statues from the different periods of Egyptian history and many treasures dating back as far as 5000 years ago.

Many of the items in the museum are priceless in terms of their value as a part of Egyptian history. These items have been moved here from locations throughout Egypt to preserve them and to allow the public access. This is true of many sites throughout the world that are faced with the dilemma of moving antiquities from their original location or preserving them at their original site.

EXCAVATION OR CONSERVATION? This question faces historians. Clearly, excavation is more glamorous and archeologists are more renown for their work. In Egypt, their own specialists lack the funds and the manpower to preserve ancient sites although the technology does exist. When foreign Egyptologists are involved, they have demands of their own for either national or personal goals.

What do you think? How should antiquities be saved? Debate the pros and cons of excavation and conservation.

The Pyramids

2. The Pyramids

The Great Pyramids are certainly one of the Wonders of the Ancient World. The question of how they were built is one that has eluded Egyptologists to date. What we do know is that each pyramid was created as a burial chamber for pharaohs. Servants would begin working on these tombs as soon as the infant was born and would end promptly at the moment of their death even if the work had been unfinished. The elaborate detail of the structure, chambers, tunnels and treasures contained within was a sign of prestige and wealth in this world and the next. Ancient Egyptians had many beliefs about items, which would be buried with them in these chambers and about the possessions in the afterlife. We know today that more than 80 others surrounded this area near the Nile River.

Archeologists believe that it would have taken 30 years and 100,000 slaves to have built the Great Pyramid of Cheops (Khufu) alone. Not much is known about this tomb because it had been robbed long before archeologists came upon it. He was buried alone and probably had smaller tombs surrounding it for his wives. The encasing marble cover, which surrounded it, has eroded or was removed.

Around the pyramid you can find the Royal Cemetery to the west containing 15 mastabas (wives tombs). To the south you will see the Boats and Pits Museum containing a boat and five pits believed to have dated back to this tombs owner. The wooden boat has no nails and was held together by ropes and pegs. The purpose of the boat may have been intended for travel to the afterlife or to accompany the Sun God on his journey.

The Great Sphinx is southwest of the Great Pyramid. The word sphinx, which means strangler, was given by the Greeks to the creature with the head of a woman, the body of a lion and the wings of a bird. The Egyptian Sphinx is usually the head of a king with his headdress and the body of a lion. The kings of the 5th Dynasty built this structure.

There have been many theories about the alignment of the pyramids, the location of this burial ground in relationship to the Nile and the placement of the surrounding tombs. Look at the map on the next page. What can you determine about the layout of this area?

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3. Recording History

The Ancient Egyptians were the first to create paper than was thin and flexible to use. The process was created to allow large documents to be recorded and transported more easily.

To make papyrus, moistened strips of thinly sliced pith with the rough outer covering removed were laid side by side on a board, and another layer was superimposed at right angles to the first layer. The two layers were then pressed and carefully beaten with hammers until the plant tissue was flattened. The exuding sap glued the strips together as the papyrus was dried in the sun. The resulting sheet, which was very strong, was rubbed with polished, flat stones until the surface was smooth. To make a scroll, many sheets were joined together and rolled on a wooden rod. Several grades of papyrus were made for varying uses.

Hieroglyphics are the pictorial symbols used in the earliest known writing systems. Each hieroglyphic is recognizable as the whole or part of some object or objects such as living creatures; vegetation; astronomical, geographical, and similar phenomena; or buildings and artifacts. They were used to write down several different languages, but their generic name is derived from a Greek description, dating from the 1st century BC, of Egyptian hieroglyphics

Today, a modified papyrus process is used employing metal presses to create the finished product. On the streets and in the stores throughout Egypt you can purchase papyrus with hieroglyphic text or replicas of famous scenes from temple walls.

What other cultures used pictorial symbols to record history and tell stories? How are we able to determine the meaning of Hieroglyphic? How have hieroglyphics assisted us in our quest for information about the ancient Egyptians?

4. The Coptic Religion

The Coptic Church is a major Christian community in Egypt, numbering between 6 and 7 million. The name Coptic is derived from the Greek word for "Egyptian" and reflects the national character of this ancient church, which goes back to the origins of Christianity. When the Christian church was torn apart by controversies, during the 5th century, on the identity of Christ, Egyptian Christians parted beliefs.

The "patriarch" and pope of Alexandria, Pentapolis and Ethiopia head the entire community of clergy elects the Coptic Church. His permanent residence is in Cairo. Long discriminated against by the Egyptian government, the Copts have more recently been the target of attacks by Muslim fundamentalists. Many of them emigrated from Egypt in the 1990's.

The monastery serves as a community center, a hospital, orphanage and trains children and adults in workshops that will lead to employment.

How does the government support the diverse religions of the people of Egypt?

5. Cairo, Capital of Egypt

Cairo is the capital of Egypt and the largest city in Africa. It is located on the eastern bank of the Nile River, south of the Mediterranean Sea. Cairo has a population of more than 8 million in the metropolitan area. The city has a hot, arid climate. Cairo is extremely overcrowded, and its aging infrastructure is inadequate to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population.

The Nile, Cairo's traditional focus, supplies water, moderates the climate, and serves as a transportation artery. Eleven bridges link the banks with Cairo's islands. The medieval city contains narrow, winding streets, open bazaars, and historic mosques. Broad boulevards and high-rise buildings characterize the modern city, whose main street is the Corniche El-Nil.

Cairo is not only the seat of national governmental activity but also the largest industrial, business, commercial, and transportation center in Egypt. Its industries produce iron and steel, automobiles, cement, appliances, and other products, which include textiles, tires, and plastics. The Middle Eastern publishing and filmmaking industries are centered in Cairo and tourism is an important part of the city's economy.

About 2,000 years ago the Romans built a fortress called Babylon on the site of present-day Cairo, and in 640 Arabs established a military camp here. Real growth began after 969, when the Fatimid dynasty made Cairo its capital. The city continued to expand and prosper under Saladin, between 1169 and 1193 AD, and later the Mamelukes, between the 13th and the 15th centuries. In the 15th century the city began a long decline as a result of plagues, the Mongol attack and finally, Turkish conquest in 1517. It did not recover until the 19th century when Egypt became virtually independent of Ottoman Turkey under Muhammad Ali.

Modern Cairo dates from the mid-19th century when the Egyptian ruler, Ismail Pasha, began European-style construction projects. From 1882 to 1922 Egypt was under British control. In the 20th century, Cairo expanded rapidly to meet population pressures, particularly with the rapid industrialization after World War II.

How is Cairo's location key to its success? What are the factors that have allowed Cairo to prosper throughout Egyptian History?

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6. Al Moallaka Church

The Hanging Church or suspended church known as Al Moallaka is consecrated to the Virgin Mary in the Coptic religion. It is known as the Hanging Church because it is built over the Roman Fortress. Above the fortress, a wood layer of stones was laid and then palm trees were planted which is now the ground level of the church. This church is unique because it is without domes and has a wooden roof in the shape of Noah's Ark. Copts believe that this represents the church and salvation.

The Church dates back to the 4th century but some historians believe that it was built ages before that. It has been proposed that it was a Roman Temple and was then transformed into a Roman Church and later to a Coptic Church. The foundation of this theory is the discovery of wall paintings belonging to Roman pagan gods found in 1984 below the plaster walls.

The Church of Al Moallaka played an important role in the history of the Coptic Church. It became a seat for the patriarch after transferring it from Alexandria to Al-Fustat. The 66th patriarch Anba Christodolos (1039-1070AD) was the first Pope to chant the Holy Liturgy here. There are 110 icons, the oldest of which dates back to the 8th century but the majority goes back to the 1400's.

What are the methods which historians date artifacts in history? How do we use primary sources to give us information about the history of a location?

7. The Jewish Community in Egypt

The books of the Maccabees consist of four Jewish books named after Judas Maccabeus, the hero of the first two. Books 1 and 2 provide a vivid account of Jewish resistance to the religious suppression and Hellenistic cultural penetration of the Seleucid period (175-135 BC). They also contain partial records of the Hasmonean (or Maccabean) dynasty, which achieved Jewish political independence during the resistance to the Seleucids and maintained it until 63 BC. A historically dubious but edifying account of the persecution of Egyptian Jews by Ptolemy IV (221-204 BC) constitutes 3 Maccabees, which was written about 50 BC. The last book probably written about 25 AD is primarily a philosophical discussion of religious laws. Today, there is still a small Jewish community in Egypt. The Ben Ezra Synagogue stands in Cairo in the midst of Coptic Churches. Once this Synagogue was of the churches belonging to the Hanging Church but Patriarch Mikhaiil III, the 56th pope, was forced to sell it to the Jews to be able to pay debts owed to the government. Jews believe that Moses, the prophet, lived here and that it dates back to the pre-Christ era.

In 115 AD, the Rabbi Ibrahim Ben Erza visited Egypt from Jerusalem and rebuilt the synagogue being his name. The Jewish people hold several treasures at this location including Jeremiah's tomb, a copy of the Torah dating circa 475 BC and a spring, called a Mikva, which is approximately 900 years old. The arabesque ceiling is dated 115 built during the opening of the synagogue.

What relationship does the Jewish, Christian and Coptic religions have in Egypt? How is their history connected?

8. The Muslim Religion

Islam is a major world religion, the second largest after Christianity. Its approximately one billion followers called Muslims or Moslems. The Prophet Muhammad in Arabia first proclaimed Islam in the 7th century. The Arabic word Islam literally means both "surrender" and "peace". They believe one should surrender to the will of God and the peace that is entailed in that surrender. Islam is a monotheistic religion like Judaism and Christianity and it traces its origins to the biblical patriarch Abraham.

Islam has found expression in diverse cultures. The most important Islamic cultural zones are the Arab, Persian, Turk, South Asian, Malasia, and African. Other smaller or more recent culture areas such as the African-American and Chinese are now also significant. Arabic is Islam's sacred language. The Arab countries of the Middle East have a strong influence on the development of Islamic civilization. The majority of Muslims, however, are not Arabs. The country with the largest Muslim population today is Indonesia, and the most populous Islamic cultural zone is South Asia, comprising India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

The sources of the Islamic faith are the Koran or Qur'an, which in Arabic means "the reading". This is the holy book of Islam. According to Muslim belief, the Koran is the word of God that was revealed to Muhammad by the Archangel Gabriel and was recorded by his companions. Muhammad was illiterate, incapable of achieving the Koran's sophisticated prose and literary style. The Koran is therefore the miracle of Muhammad whose illiteracy serves the as a revelation of divine truth. The Koran consists of 114 chapters that were revealed to the Prophet over a period of time. It covers a variety of issues including ethics, history, theology, and religious obligations. The Koran contains the fundamental teachings of the faith, and is the foundation of all other expressions of Islam in daily living and spiritual belief.

Islamic Tradition -continued-

The Sharia is the divine law in Islam. It encompasses every aspect of Muslim private life, social transactions, piety, and rituals. Muslims view the Sharia as a guide by which to live, and, more importantly, as the will of God. A Muslim is a Muslim by virtue of following the Sharia, which informs every area of Muslim life from birth to death with Islamic values. The Sharia is rooted in the Koran, the Prophet's sayings and traditions. All Muslims agree that these constitute the sources of Islamic law, but differ on their application. These differences have led to the emergence of four schools of Islamic law within the Sunnite community: The Shafiite (Egypt, Malaysia, and Indonesia), the Hanafite (South Asia), the Malikite (North Africa), and the Hanbalite (Saudi Arabia). Each is named for a legal scholar associated with its origins.

The basic duties of Muslims are called The Pillars of Islam. These were revealed in the Koran and the Prophet laid down the exact manner of their execution. They are 1. Prescribed prayers performed five times each day; 2. Fasting during the month of Ramadan between dawn and dusk; 3. The pilgrimage to Mecca which is to be performed at least once in a lifetime for those who have the means to do it; 4. Payment of a religious tax intended for the poor or works of piety; 5. Striving in the path of God; 6. Striving against one's soul in attaining spirituality; 7. Defending Muslims against outside aggression. These duties have both personal and public dimensions.

What caused Muslim sects to develop in different cultures? How are relevant doctrines interpreted differently by each of these sects? Does nationality affect religion?

Islamic Tradition

9. The Mosques of Egypt

Mosque literally means "a place to prostrate one's self in front of God" in Arabic. It is a place of public worship in the Muslim religion. It must be in the direction of Mecca and have a place for ritual worship and a place from which a preacher can speak and a leader can start the action of prayer. The preacher speaks from a high pulpit originally used by judges administering the law. The imam, spiritual leader, stands in or before the mihrab, a niche inserted in the wall which indicates the direction of Mecca. Early in Islam the mihrab became the focal center of the mosque and together with the wall around it often acquired a wealth of abstract decoration. An additional liturgical requirement is the minaret, a high, generally pointed tower from which Muslims are called to prayer.

Soon after the Prophet Muhammed's death in 632 AD, his house in Medina, became a model of the proper kind of meeting place in which to pray at formally appointed times as well as to perform a variety of social, political, and administrative functions related to the Muslim faith. Generally, mosques have assumed the form of large enclosed spaces serving the collective needs of the Muslim community and decorated with quotations from the Koran and with ornaments intended to heighten the unique quality of the monument. Statues or other images of living beings are absent from the mosque while geometric or floral motifs predominate in its carved-wood, plaster, tile, or mosaic decoration. The floors of mosques are generally covered with rugs. They often contain hanging lamps, candlesticks, stands for holy books, and platforms for readers.

Stylistically, mosques can be divided into three major types. The first is often called the Arab type because it first appeared in the earliest conquered lands of the Fertile Crescent area and Egypt. It was later found throughout the Muslim West. This hypostyle type is a widely occurring style of mosque is characterized by a large space, often composed of many parallel galleries, organized through naves or bays supported on a mass of piers or columns around an open courtyard. Although usually very large, hypostyle mosques also occur in miniaturized form in some cities, most typically in Cairo.

The second basic mosque type is the Iranian mosque. Of uncertain origin, this type is first clearly evident in Western Iranian mosques of the late 11th through 12th centuries. Although influencing monuments elsewhere, even in Egypt, the Iranian-type mosque that is based on pre-Islamic Iranian architectural feature remains more clearly regional in character than the hypostyle type. Its interior arrangement is based on four vaulted halls around a central court.

The third mosque type, called Turkish or Ottoman, was created under the influence of the local Anatolian architecture of the 13th and 14th centuries. It is characterized by the domination of a single dome covering the main prayer hall. Inside, brilliantly patterned supports extend gracefully from the top of the cupola, and in the exterior courtyard tall minarets frame the soaring dome. The Ottoman-type mosque appeared in all the lands that came under Ottoman rule.

How does a mosque greatly differ from a church or a synagogue? What commonalties remain?

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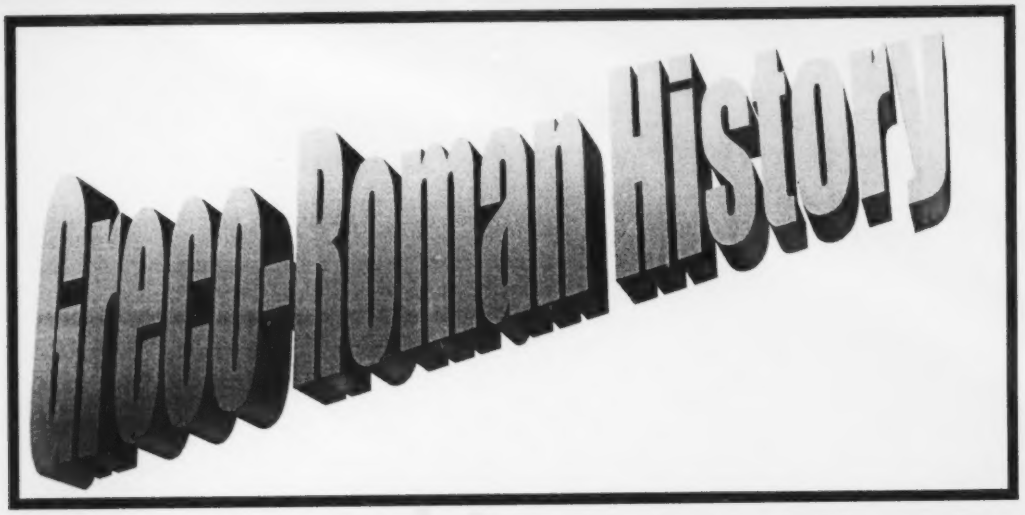

10. Greco-Roman History in Egypt

Alexander the Great aided by the Macedonian army fought against the Persians and conquered the entire Persian Empire in ten years (334-25 BC). He created an empire stretching from Macedonia to the Indus River, a magnificent achievement that had even more important, far-reaching effects. Alexander initiated the systematic Hellenization of the East. Alexander's huge empire broke apart at his death in 323 BC. His generals claimed his legacy and by 275 AD, three Macedonian dynasties had established themselves as divisions of the empire. The successors of Antigonus I ruled Macedonia, those of Seleucus ruled the Asian provinces and those of Ptolemy I ruled Egypt. In the struggles among the Hellenistic monarchs of Macedonia, Asia, and Egypt between 275 and 200, the Seleucids were lost many areas. In addition to an inconclusive contest waged with the Ptolemies for the possession of Syria, the Seleucids were beset by rebellions in the eastern provinces of Asia, leaving them with only southern Anatolia, northern Syria, and Mesopotamia. In Greece the Antigonids enjoyed greater success. The defeat of Sparta by Antigonus III at Selasia in 222 AD not only overthrew Cleomenes III but placed the Achaean League under Antigonus' control.

Rome became the decisive factor in Greek affairs after 200. By the end of the 1st century BC, Pompey the Great, Julius Caesar, and Augustus had settled the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire into their final form. The old Greek city-states, though subject to Rome, enjoyed local autonomy. The propertied classes controlled the local governments, and Greek was retained as the official language. For a time there was much prosperity. The Roman emperors patronized many cities. Athens, especially, flourished as a university town. Later in the 4th century, the Greeks were once more subjected to Gothic invasion. Afterward, the Greeks, increasingly divorced from the West, entered a new social order in which their attenuated prosperity depended on the strength or the weakness of the Byzantine Empire.

Famous buildings in the early city included the Temple of Serapis, the Temple of Poseidon, the Soma (mausoleum of Alexander the Great and the Ptolemies), a museum, a theater, an emporium, and the Library at Alexandria founded by Ptolemy I. Under the Ptolemies, the city was the literary and scientific center of the Hellenistic world. Later, under the Romans, its location made it the center of world commerce. Many artifacts from the ancient city are displayed in the Greco-Roman Museum.

Oxyrhynchus, modern El Bhnasa, a town on the West Bank of the Nile River, south of Cairo, was the ancient capital of the 19th Nome of Upper Egypt. The site was dedicated to Osiris's enemy Set. Excavations at the site have yielded large quantities of papyri written mainly in Greek, Egypt's official language during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. Dating from 250 BC to the 10th century AD, the Oxyrhynchus papyri have supplied an invaluable insight into the social and economic systems of Roman Egypt. Private letters and official documents have revealed information about such varied subjects as the buying and selling of land, the trials and tribulations of creditors, the routes of trade, slave auctions, and some furnishings of a house.

What other civilizations influenced Egypt's culture and history? How can foreign rule alter a civilization?

11. Alexandria

Alexandria is the chief port and second-largest city of Egypt located on the west side of the Nile Delta on the Mediterranean Sea. An isthmus of about one-mile wide connects the former island of Pharos with the mainland, separating the East and West harbors. The West Harbor serves as the city's port and has modern facilities and was joined to the Nile River by a canal in the early 19th century.

Alexandria enjoys a Mediterranean climate. Annual precipitation averages less than 10 inches with little or no rain falling in the summer. January is the coolest month, with an average temperature of 64 degrees. August is the warmest, with an average of 87 degrees. The pleasant climate and sandy beaches make Alexandria a favorite tourist spot.

Isthmian Alexandria is characteristically Egyptian. The European quarter stands on the mainland south of the East Harbor. The city has numerous mosques, palaces, monuments, parks, and gardens. A suburb, al-Raml, with its fine beaches, is known as the Egyptian Riviera. The West Harbor is the commercial center and has numerous warehouses for cotton, sugar, foodstuffs, grain, and wool. Industries in the city include oil refining, motor-vehicle assembly, food processing and textile weaving. The bulk of Egypt's foreign trade passes through the port of Alexandria. Excellent railroads and highways connect it with Cairo and other cities.

For more than 2,000 years Alexandria was the largest city of Egypt. It was founded in 332 BC by Alexander the Great and was well planned. Two main avenues, the present-day Fuad and Nebi Daniel streets, were then and now the center of the commercial, cultural, and political life. A lighthouse, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was built on the island of Pharos in 280 BC.

Famous buildings in the early city included the Temple of Serapis, the Temple of Poseidon, the Soma (the mausoleum of Alexander the Great and the Ptolemies), a museum, a theater and the Alexandria Library founded by Ptolemy I. This library is currently undergoing major renovations and will be a world educational center. Under the Ptolemies, the city was the literary and scientific center of the Hellenistic world. Later, under the Romans, its location made it the center of world commerce. Many artifacts from the ancient city are displayed in the Greco-Roman Museum.

The Arabs captured Alexandria in 642 AD and it was nearly destroyed. An earthquake devastated the lighthouse in 1324. The new lighthouse that took its place stands at Ras el-Tin, overlooking the West Harbor. Napoleon Bonaparte held the city from 1798 to 1801. In 1882, Alexandria was bombarded and occupied by the British, and during World Wars I and II it served as a British naval base. Emigration of foreign communities since the 1950's has made Alexandria a more Egyptian city.

How has the location of Alexandria made it a cultural, military and commercial site? What has caused such publicity about the Library at Alexandria? How is this library it unique?

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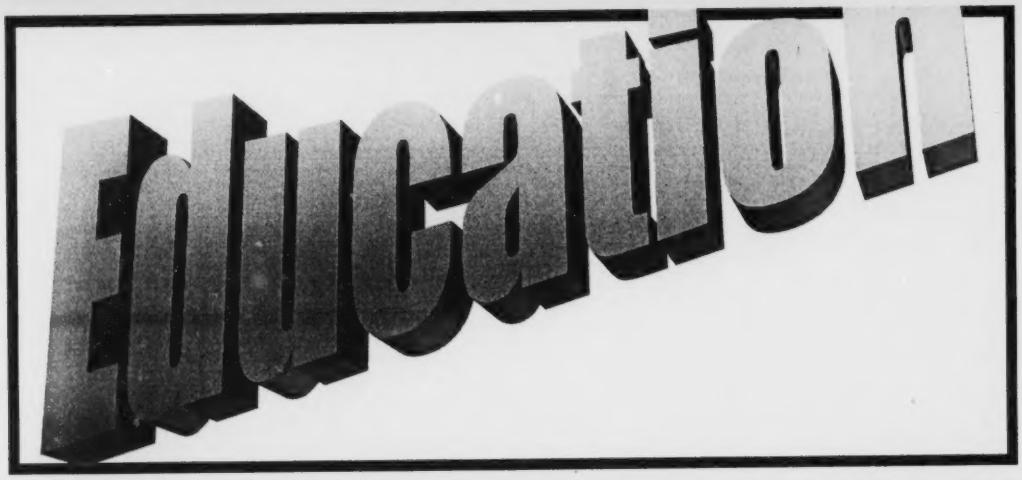

12. Education in Egypt

The rapid growth of the population is slowing government efforts to reduce the illiteracy rate. During the 1940s about 80% of the Egyptians could not read or write. Despite the introduction of compulsory education, more than half of the adult population remains illiterate. Education in Egypt is under government control and is free including university education. Children between the ages of 6 and 14 are required by law to attend five years of elementary school and three years of secondary school. As it is now compulsory more than 90% of all children were enrolled in the early 1990s. Graduates of elementary schools may attend either a general secondary school or a technical secondary school. The general secondary school prepares students for higher education.

Egypt has a large number of institutions of higher learning. Al-Azhar University in Cairo, founded in 970 AD for Islamic learning is one of the oldest universities in the world. Ain Shams University founded in 1950 and Cairo University founded in 1908 is Egypt's largest. Increasing numbers of students now consider a college degree necessary for social advancement. They therefore prepare to qualify for admission to a university concentrating on college preparatory studies rather than select technical or vocational careers. Egypt, as in many other countries, suffers from serious shortages of scientists and technicians.

Higher education now faces various problems such as the general lowering of academic standards. Expanded facilities have seldom kept pace with increased enrollments; classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and equipment are seldom adequate to accommodate the students. Even more serious is the shortage of teachers. Teacher-student ratios are sometimes as high as 1 to 100 and many faculty members teach in more than one institution to compensate for poor salaries. Even into the early 1990s, student-faculty relations are still highly traditional as are teaching methods emphasizing lectures and rote learning.

The issue of language complicates the achievement of high standards in science education in the Arab world. Science courses are commonly taught in English and the remainder of the curriculum in Arabic. This approach is condemned for its divisiveness and its demotion of Arabic to a secondary status. Proponents stress the importance of fluency in a major international language for effective communication and research. The American University in Cairo teaches courses in English. Pressure exists to change this policy and to use only Turkish, Persian, or Arabic as the language of instruction.

How can the Egyptians ensure that all students receive an adequate education? How can they assist illiterate adults? How do we create a universal language to promote international progress in science related fields?

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Bedouins

13. Bedouin Society

Many Bedouin tribes are formed into large confederacies, some of which have played an important role in the history of the Middle East. Converted to Islam in the 7th century, the Bedouin formed the armies that facilitated the expansion of Islam through North Africa and into Central Asia. In recent years the accelerating economic development in most Arab countries has made the Bedouin way of life increasingly sedentary.

The word Bedouin literally means "desert dweller" in Arabic. It refers to Arabic-speaking pastoral nomads in the Middle East and North Africa. The Bedouins are estimated to comprise one-tenth of the population of the Middle East. They are mainly associated with camel herding in desert areas, although many Bedouin in more favorable grazing areas also tend sheep, goats, or cattle. The Bedouin Society is generally organized into patrilineal groups varying in size from 50 to several hundred members. In the cooler, rainy season, Bedouin typically migrate in small groups into the desert with their animals. In the hot, dry season they congregate in larger groups around water sources on the desert margins, especially in the vicinity of towns and markets. Some groups make annual migrations of as far as 600 miles in any direction.

In Egypt, the Bedouins are largely involved with the sale of handmade goods that are traditional in their culture. Large markets are crowded with buyers and sellers trying to get the best price for their wares. It is customary to bargain for the best price.

The Bedouins of Israel are no longer nomadic as it is necessary for the government to maintain records of the location of its citizens. In this region more and more of the younger people are choosing to work in the cities in more financially profitable industries. Unfortunately, this has lead to a decrease in the number of individuals in the tribes of this region.

Debate the pros and cons of living in a nomadic village. What might some of the products that the Bedouins sell at the market?

14. Borders: Peace and Conflict

Palestine, a historic region on the east coast of the Mediterranean, also known as the Holy Land, was the site of the ancient kingdoms of Israel and Judah and comprises areas of the modern states of Israel and Jordan. In the 20th century, Arab and Jewish nationalists have made conflicting claims to the region. The borders of Palestine have fluctuated throughout history but have generally included the territory lying between the southeastern Mediterranean coast on the west, the Jordan/Dead Sea Valley on the east, the Negev Desert on the south, and the Litani River on the north. This is an area only about 175 miles long by 80 miles wide. This land has been desirable throughout history because, by local standards, it is relatively well watered and strategically located on major land routes linking western Asia and northern Africa.

By 1947 the exhausted British declared that they could do no more and referred the problem to the United Nations, which voted in November to split Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. Despite violent Arab protests, the Jewish people of this area proclaimed the creation of the independent state of Israel, comprising more than half of Palestine's territory. This declaration took place on May 14, 1948, the eve of Britain's evacuation. Armies of the adjacent Arab states quickly entered Palestine. This war, the first in a series of Arab-Israeli Wars, ended in 1949 with an Israeli victory that included possession of territories won on the battlefield. Following this more than 700,000 Arab Palestinian refugees migrated out of Israeli territory into adjacent areas controlled by various Arab states. The new Israeli government confiscated property left by the Arab refugees and redistributed it to Israelis. This was the end to Palestine as a political entity. Most of the territory west of the Jordan River that the United Nations had designated as Arab came under the control of Jordan which was formally annexed in 1950. After the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, however, Israel occupied this West Bank territory.

Today, the dispute over this territory remains intense as Yasir Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority and Ehud Barak, Prime Minister of Israel debate over control of the disputed regions in Israel, especially Jerusalem.

Why does it seem almost impossible for the disputes in this area to be resolved? Why has Jerusalem been such a dilemma in the Middle East Peace process?

The Arts

15. The Arts

Ancient architecture used the materials of wood, matting, and mud brick which has been found in, where pit graves were lined with wood or brick and roofed with matting or stone slabs. Some settlements have been partially excavated and a possible predynastic temple was recently found at Hierakonpolis. Art was well developed but small scale. Figurines and statuettes of individual humans or animals, some modeled realistically, were made in mud, pottery, and ivory. Slate cosmetic palettes were found in a bird or animal form and painted designs on pottery placed humans, animals, and boats together in sometimes complex designs. Most of these art forms were from tombs and were magical or religious representations. In later times, however, ivory knife handles and ceremonial palettes, perhaps dedicated to temples, bore scenes in relief, possibly including depictions of historical events as well as a wall painting in a tribal chief's tomb at Hierakonpolis. Battles, hunts, and ceremonial scenes were favorite motifs. This is true of the temples of Abu Simbel, Rifa'i, Edfu and other regional historical sites.

Ancient Egyptian Art is plentiful in temples, museums and archeological sits all over the country. We often think of Hieroglyphics, mythical gods, pyramids and the sphinx when we think about Egyptian art. Today there is an ever-evolving artistic style that has all the modern components of countries around the world as well as some unique aspects to rooted in this region. The numerous museums in every area of Egypt have themes of artwork from modern to the ancient times.

Why do we tend to think of Egyptian art only in its ancient form? What would you expect is unique to Egyptian art today? What trends may be the same as some famous American artist?

Temples

16. The Temples of Luxor and Karnak

Karnak, a village on the Nile at the northern extremity of Luxor, is the site of the greatest assembly of ancient temples in Egypt. They are spread over about 120 acres and range in date over about 2,000 years. By far the largest and most important is the Temple of Amun. In origin, it probably dates back to the Old Kingdom approximately 2686-2181 BC. The earliest surviving building is a pavilion of Sesostris I from 1971 -1928 BC. Amun, called king of the gods, was the state god in the New Kingdom between 1570 and 1085 BC). During this period kings with such famous names as Amenhotep, Thutmose, Seti, and Ramses conducted campaigns in Western Asia and Nubia, bringing back vast quantities of valuables, some of which paid for building the Amun Temple and made its priesthood the richest religious organization in the land. Architecturally, the temple's most impressive element is the colossal Hypostyle Hall of Seti I. Its walls are decorated with scenes carved in relief and hieroglyphic inscriptions that primarily depict religious ceremonies or record historical events, such as conquests.

New Kingdom art and architecture were varied and revealing. Gods' temples include the earliest in Egypt to have survived relatively intact, stone-built and enormous in size. Amun-Ra's Theban Temple (Karnak) came to occupy over 8 acres. Every temple was designed to integrate Egypt ritually with the cosmos. Exterior scenes of royal victories were believed to protect the god's image within, while the interior walls of the courtyards and chambers were covered with scenes depicting public festivals. This cosmological significance from the temple's form promoted the ceilings being painted as skies often supported by columns representing giant vegetation. The two-towered pylons at the entrance were identified as the horizon where the sun god rose and renewed the universe. Royal palaces, although built in brick, deliberately copied temple architecture so as to stress the pharaoh's divine nature

The Temple at Luxor, a city in Upper Egypt, is located at the site of ancient Thebes. Located 460 miles south of Cairo on the Nile River, it was the capital of ancient Egypt during the 11th dynasty approximately 2130-1990 BC and continued through the New Kingdom period approximately 1570-1085 BC. To the ancient Egyptians, Luxor was known as Waset, meaning "the city". The Greeks called it Thebes, which was probably derived from Tape, a name of the great temple of Karnak, which is near the city. Both Karnak and the smaller temple of Luxor are on the east side of the river. On the west bank are the famous colossi of King Amenhotep III dating back to approximate 1417-1379 BC, the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens, the Ramesseum and other royal mortuary temples, and the finely decorated tombs of high officials. The temple of Luxor is dedicated to the god Amon-Re and was begun by Amenhotep III and added to by Tutankhamen, Horemheb, and Ramses II.

What makes the Temples at Karnak and Luxor so spectacular? Why are they so immense and elaborately built? What can we learn about the ancient civilizations in Egypt from these sites?

17. The Valley of the Kings and The Valley of the Queens

The famous colossi of King Amenhotep III dating 1417-1379 BC, the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens, the Ramesseum and other royal mortuary temples and the finely decorated tombs of high officials can be looked upon with great awe. We remain amazed at the structure and the ability of the Ancient Egyptian to build such tombs with minimal technology as compared to today. This valley is most revered as a resting-place for kings to depart to the after life. The Tomb of Nefertari, in the Valley of the Queens, is most amazing. This tomb has been preserved with the greatest detail in color. It is amazing to behold what the colors must have looked like in the days of the queen.

The Valley of the Kings in western Thebes, Egypt, contains royal burial sites dating from the 18th dynasty dating back to 1570-1320 BC and from the 19th dynasty dating 1320-1200 BC of the New Kingdom. In the necropolis, the various chambers of the earlier tombs are built along a curving axis. In the later examples, chambers and corridors are arranged in parallel lines. More than 60 royal tombs are known but many, such as that of Ramses II, are not yet accessible. Notable tombs include that of Ramses VI, containing a well preserved painted relief of religious scenes. Directly beneath this tomb is that of Tutankhamen, which was discovered, in 1922, by Howard Carter. The tomb of Seti I, also known as Belzoni's Tomb after the Italian adventurer who first entered it in 1817, is noted for magnificent vast reliefs in its vaulted ceiling. The largest known tomb in the valley, believed to be that of the sons of Ramses II, was discovered in 1995.

Why did the Egyptians bury their Kings and Queens in this Valley? How can we learn more about the each of these individuals by studying the treasures and art inside the tomb?

Edfu Temple

18. Edfu Temple

The Egyptian town of Edfu is situated on the Nile River. Many of the people currently living there once lived south of Aswan. They were resettled when the waters rising behind the Aswan High Dam threatened their homes. Known to the ancient Egyptians as Djebu and to the Greeks as Apollinopolis Magna, Edfu has ancient remains ranging from Old Kingdom burials to homes built during the Byzantine period.

The principal feature in Edfu is the magnificent temple of Horus. He was represented either as a man with a falcon's head or as Horus of Behedet, a solar disk with outstretched wings. In this form the Greeks have equated him with Apollo. During certain festivals, the priests of Horus of Edfu celebrated rites in association with priests of his companion, Hathor of Dendera, and of their offspring Harsomtus. The temple was begun in 237 BC by Ptolemy III Euergetes and completed in 57 BC by Ptolemy XII Auletes. It is one of the best-preserved examples of Egyptian temple architecture surviving today. The entrance lies in the middle of two pylons that open onto a courtyard. Beyond this is the sanctuary proper composed of an outer and an inner hypostyle and vestibule. Additional chapels surround the inner sanctum.

Why did the Ancient Egyptians believe in the gods? How did their beliefs affect their daily lives? What typical aspects of Ancient Egyptian life reflect their belief in these gods?

19. High Dam at Aswan

The Aswan High Dam was constructed between 1960 and 1971. It is close to the Nile River near the resort town of Aswan in Upper Egypt. One of the world's largest structures, the rock-fill dam has a volume about 17 times that of the Great Pyramid at Giza. It is 2.3 miles in length and rises 364 feet above the riverbed. Lake Nasser the reservoir it barriers is about 6 miles wide and is approximately 310 miles long. About 30 percent of its length are in neighboring Sudan. An earlier granite dam, the Aswan Dam, is 4 miles downstream and is about midway between the Aswan High Dam and the town of Aswan. The Aswan Dam was completed in 1902 but its crest has been twice raised.

Ten years in construction, the Aswan High Dam cost $1 billion. The water it stores has opened the way to agricultural expansion. More than 900,000 acres, most of it formerly desert, were added to the total of arable land. Between 1979 and the 1985, overuse and drought led to a substantial drop in the water level of Lake Nasser forcing drastic reductions in the flow of irrigation water and reducing power output. The dam has an incredible hydroelectric power capacity and supplies more than a quarter of Egypt's power.

Both Aswan dams have been the focus of worldwide archaeological concern. Construction of the Aswan Dam in 1902 partially inundated the Temple of Philae. Lake Nasser inundated many ancient sites, including the temples and colossi at Abu Simbel. Through an international effort these structures were raised and relocated on the new shoreline. As a result of the creation of Lake Nasser, 100,000 Egyptian and Sudanese Nubians had to be resettled.

Many of the negative environmental effects that were anticipated from the dam have not yet appeared. A study completed in 1982 found that the incidence of waterborne diseases is lower in the areas along the Nile than it was before the dam was built. Evaporation from Lake Nasser is not as high as was predicted. But other adverse ecological effects have been recorded including salt buildup in the irrigated areas and increased salinity in the waters of the Nile itself. There has been a deterioration of the sardine fishing industry in the eastern Mediterranean because of the decrease in silt as well as erosion in the Nile waterway and in the delta region. Efforts are underway to establish a fishery in the lake and to resettle its shores.

Discuss the positive and negative effects of building the Aswan Dam. What can be done to rectify the ecological effects it has had on the region? Why is it illegal to take photographs of the High Dam at Aswan?

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20. The Nubians

Nubia was a region of ancient northeastern Africa that no longer exists. It had been between the Nile's First Cataract, the confluence of the White Nile and Blue Nile, the Red Sea and the Libyan Desert. The ancient Egyptians occupied its northern area occasionally from about the 20th century to the 8th century BC and strongly influenced its culture

In the late 8th and early 7th centuries, Nubia, known to the Egyptians as Cush, ruled Egypt. In 671 AD, the Assyrians invaded Egypt and soon after drove the Cushites back into Nubia. The Egyptians destroyed Napata in 590 AD, but the Cushites established a new capital at Meroe and maintained an independent kingdom until about 350 AD. In the 6th century AD, Nubia was Christianized, and it remained so until the Muslim Mamelukes of Egypt overran it in the 14th century.

Today, Nubian artifacts can be found in marketplaces in Upper Egypt. The history of the Nubian people is depicted and recorded in the Nubian Museum near Aswan. Many references and artifacts are noted throughout Egypt.

Why is important to document the history if the Nubian people? How have the Nubians made a noted impact on Egyptian History?

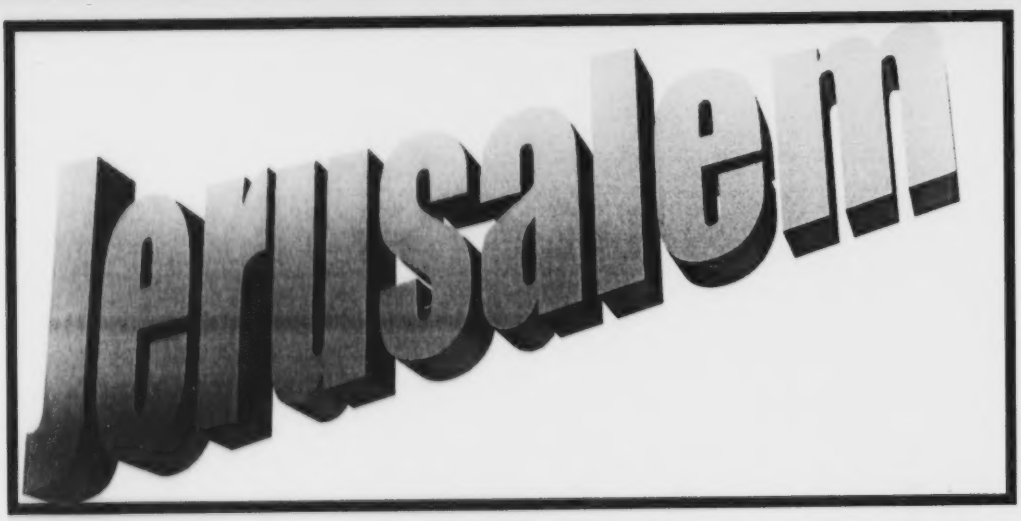
21. The Temple at Abu Simbel

Abu Simbel is located 175 miles south of Aswan, Egypt, on the west bank of the Nile. It is the site of two famous rock-hewn temples built during the reign of Ramses II approximately 1304-1237 BC. Four colossal statues of Ramses, measuring about 65 feet high, are carved on the facade of the larger temple. Four others, about 33 feet high, together with two statues of his principal queen, Nefertari, adorn the walls of the smaller temple.

The inner facade of the larger temple bear painted reliefs of the king performing religious ceremonies and fighting against the Hittites and other foes. At the far end are statues of the gods Ptah, Amon-Re, Re-Harakhti, and the sacred king, on which the direct rays of the Sun shine at sunrise twice annually on February 20 and October 20. The smaller temple, also decorated with religious scenes, was dedicated to the goddess Hathor and the Nefertari.

The construction of the Aswan High Dam and the creation of Lake Nasser caused the water level to rise above this temple situated on a plateau. This made it necessary to move the temples to high ground above the original site in order to preserve the temple. Italian architects were hired to disassemble the temple and raise it to higher ground. The charge was immense as each piece was carefully moved and reconstructed to perfection. This amazing project was finished in 1968 at a cost of $40 million.

Why was it so important for this temple to be preserved? Does changing the location of a sacred temple or archeological structure lessen its importance as an historical site?



22. Jerusalem, Israel

Jerusalem's history stretches back about 5,000 years. About 2500 BC, the Canaanites inhabited the city. Later Jerusalem became a Jebusite citadel. When David captured the city in 1000 BC, the Jebusites were absorbed into the Jewish people. David made Jerusalem the capital of his kingdom, and Solomon built the first Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant. In 586 BC, the Babylonian destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and exiled the Jews to Babylonia. Fifty years later in 537 BC, Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylonia and permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their Temple. Persia held the city until 333 BC when Alexander the Great added Palestine to his empire. In 323 BC, Ptolemy I of Egypt took Palestine into his kingdom.

Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is a holy city of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Jerusalem is located in the Judean Hills, is near the Mediterranean Sea and covers an area of 42 square miles. The population of the city is estimated in 1993 as being approximately 616,000. The growth of the city may be attributed to its location that has been an important trade route and to its religious importance. Jews have constituted a majority of Jerusalem's population since about 1876. Today they make up about 72%, Arabs about 26%; and there remains a dwindling Christian minority. Both Hebrew and Arabic are spoken. For Jews, Jerusalem is the focus of their religious longing, the site of their ancient temple, and their historical capital. For Christians, it is the site of many of the events in the life of Jesus Christ. For Muslims, it is their third holiest as the site from which Muhammad is said to have risen to heaven and the site of important mosques. Jerusalem's religious status has made control of the city a volatile issue. In 1949, at the end of the First Arab-Israeli War, Jerusalem was partitioned between Israel and Jordan. Israel took control of the entire city in 1967 and officially proclaimed all of Jerusalem the capital of Israel in 1980. These actions were bitterly resented by the Arabs. The status of the city remains unresolved.

Jerusalem is divided into three sections: the Old City, New City and East Jerusalem. The walled Old City, in the center, contains 4 quarters: Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Armenian. The Old City was under Jordanian control from 1949 to 1967. During this period the Jewish quarter was destroyed, but it has since been rebuilt. Most of the narrow streets of the Old City are lined with shops where merchants selling food and traditional handicrafts. Homes are clustered around courtyards surrounded by high walls. Many of Jerusalem's religious landmarks are located in the Old City. The Western Wall, or Wailing Wall, is a remnant of the supporting wall of the Second Temple. After the Jews were banished from the Temple Mount, the Western Wall became the most sacred place of Judaism. Atop the Temple Mount are the gold-domed Dome of the Rock and the silver-domed al-Aqsa mosques. The street called the Via Dolorosa is believed to be the site of the original Stations of the Cross. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was begun in the 4th century AD and was rebuilt by the Crusaders beginning in 1099. The Museum of the History of Jerusalem is built in the ruins of the Tower of David.

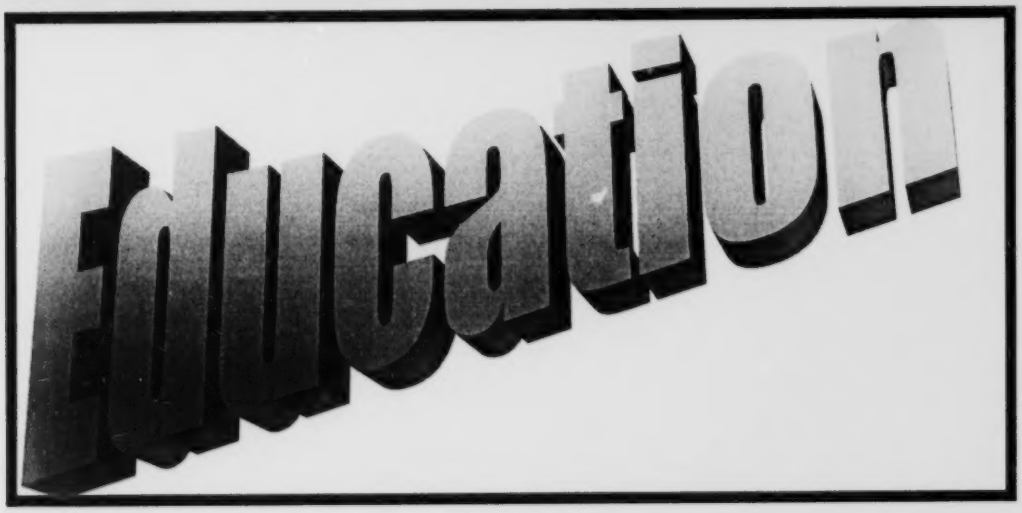
The New City, built mostly by Jews, has expanded since the 19th century. This section was under Israeli control during the partition and is the site of many government buildings. To the south is the Israel Museum, which includes the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are located. Farther to the west are modern high-rise apartment buildings and the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center.

East Jerusalem, located just north of the Old City, is the primarily residential modern Arab section, although Jews have outnumbered Arabs there since 1993. It is also the site of the Rockefeller Museum, with a fine archaeological collection. Since 1967 a ring of Israeli settlements has been built around the entire city. Hebrew University, Israel's leading institution of higher learning, has campuses in the New City and on Mount Scopus.

The rough topography of the city is due to the power of the Jordan River, which has eroded the narrow ridge of Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives. The ancient town's limestone base is one of their greatest resources and all buildings inside the city are constructed with this material.

Tourism is the city's major economic activity, along with the government-related functions. Industries include diamond cutting and polishing, home appliances, furniture, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, shoes, plastics, textiles and clothing, printing and publishing, and jewelry. The city is connected by rail and bus to Tel Aviv and is served by Mediterranean ports. A municipal council of 31 members elected to 4-year terms by proportional representation governs Jerusalem.

Why is this region so disputed by the people living there? How is its location an advantage in trade?



23. Education in Israel

Higher education in the Middle East is based on two traditions, the Islamic and the Western. The Islamic tradition, dating back to the early days of Islam, was carried on for centuries in numerous madrasahs (religious schools) throughout the region. The Western tradition was introduced in the 19th and sought to match the power of European states. Their primary concern was the military and beginning with institutions to train military officers, a new system of education that paralleled the traditional Islamic system was established in to produce administrators and professionals. Schools are community centers and religious beliefs are taught in the school system. Muslim, Jewish, Ultra Orthodox and Christian children attend seperate schools based on their religious beliefs

The universities of Israel are regarded as centers of scholarship and culture. The first, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was established in 1918 as a research institute and became a university a decade later. The other universities were established after Israel gained independence in 1948. Israel has two major research institutes: Technion--Israel Institute of Technology established in 1912, and the Weizmann Institute of Science established in 1949. Because of the compulsory military service at the age of 18 (3 years for men, 2 for women), most of the country's university students are 21 or 22 years of age or older when they begin higher education. The Open University of Israel is modeled on Great Britain's Open University.

The Council for Higher Education is the licensing and accrediting authority for higher education in Israel, an independent statutory body composed of 1,925 members appointed by the president if the state on the recommendation of the government. The Council is empowered by law to advise the government on the development and financing of higher education and scientific research.

With the advent of the 21st century and the use of technology in nearly all fields, higher education is becoming increasingly important. To this end Israel is in the process of expanding its system of higher education encouraging its youth to take the matriculation exam for entrance to universities.

How can Israel further encourage students to continue their education in the university?

Religions of Israel

24.The Religions of Israel

The Jews are a people who trace their descent from the biblical Israelites and who are united by the religion called Judaism. Jewish identity is a mixture of ethnic, national and religious elements. An individual may become part of the Jewish people by conversion to Judaism. A child born to a Jew who rejects Judaism or adopts another religion does not entirely lose his Jewish identity. In biblical times the Jews were divided into 12 tribes. The word Jew is derived from the kingdom of Judah. The name Israel referred to the people as a whole and to the Northern Kingdom of 10 tribes. Today it is used as a collective name for all Jewry and since 1948 for the Jewish state

Christianity is the religion of about 1.8 billion people whose belief system centers on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. To Christians, Jesus of Nazareth was and is the messiah or Christ promised by God in the prophecies of the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible). The Christian Bible, or Holy Scripture, includes the Old Testament and also the New Testament, a collection of early Christian writings proclaiming Jesus as lord and savior. Arising in the Jewish milieu of 1st-century Palestine, Christianity quickly spread through the Mediterranean world and in the 4th century became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Christians have tended to separate into rival groups, but the main body of the Christian church was united under the Roman emperors. Although Christians today tend to emphasize what unites them rather than what divides them, substantial differences in faith exist among the various churches. Those in the Protestant tradition insist on Scripture as the sole source of God's revelation. The Roman Catholics and Orthodox give greater importance to the tradition of the church in defining the content of faith, believing it to be divinely guided in its understanding of scriptural revelation. They stress the role of councils in the formulation of doctrine, and in Roman Catholicism the pope, or bishop of Rome, is regarded as the final authority in matters of belief.

Islam is a major world religion, the second largest (after Christianity). Its approximately one billion adherents and comprise about one-fifth of the Earth's population. The Prophet Muhammad in Arabia first proclaimed Islam in the 7th century. Islam is a monotheistic religion like Judaism and Christianity, it traces its origins to the biblical patriarch Abraham. Islam has found expression in diverse cultures. Palestine, a historic region on the east coast of the Mediterranean, also known as the Holy Land, was the site of the ancient kingdoms of Israel and Judah and comprises areas of the modern states of Israel and Jordan. In the 20th century, Arab and Jewish nationalists have made conflicting claims to the region. The borders of Palestine have fluctuated throughout history. Currently, the Palestinians occupy parts of Israel in an effort to reclaim hat they believe to be their Holy Land. They currently occupy the West Bank and The Gaza Strip.

How is it possible for these religions to co-exist in the same region?

25. The Military

Military service is mandatory in Israel for boys and girls when they reach age 18. Boys are required to serve 23 years whereas girls need to serve 2 years. This causes their education to be put on hold for a while but most individuals return to school once they have completed their service. Students learn military tactics as well as study defense and strategy. Military forces, whether large-scale or small-scale, must have a clear objective that is followed despite possible distractions

Since the United Nations partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948, there have been five major Arab-Israeli wars (1947-49, 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982) and numerous intermittent battles. Although Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979, hostility between Israel and the rest of its Arab neighbors was complicated by the demands of Palestinian Arabs for an independent state in Israeli-occupied territory. Israel and the PLO signed agreements in 1993 and 1994 granting Palestinian Arabs self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Israel and Jordan formally ended their state of war in 1994, raising hopes for a permanent peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Why is compulsory military service necessary in Israel? How does military service benefit the students as well as the government in Israel?

26. The Church of thew Holy Sepulcher

From the early 4th century, when Christianity became legal in the Roman Empire, Jerusalem developed as a center of Christian pilgrimage. The crusaders rebuilt the church at the beginning of 1099. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher and many other Christian shrines were erected. Except for a brief period of Persian rule, between 614 through 628 AD, the city remained under Roman control until 638 AD when the Muslim Arabs took Jerusalem. The Arabs built the Dome of the Rock shrine between 688 to 691 AD on the site of the Temple.

Today, the Christians consider this site one of the holiest sites and thousand of visitors come to pray at the site of the tomb of Jesus. The Protestants who believe that the Garden Tomb, an alternate site, is the actual location of this holy tomb generally dispute this location.

The writings of Josephus Flavius helps us to pinpoint the general location of many historic sites because of the detail he included in his writing. In many cases, his notes are the only information we have uncovered about historic sites in Jerusalem's past. Flavius, born in 37 AD and died in 93 AD, was a Jewish historian whose works are invaluable sources for the history of the Jews under Roman domination. A Pharisee, originally named Joseph ben Matthias, he reluctantly joined the revolt against Rome in 66 and served as commander in Galilee until captured by the Romans in 67. Through the patronage of Vespasian, he later became a Roman citizen. Josephus's *The Jewish War* is a description of the tragic events of the revolt and is based to a large extent on his firsthand knowledge. His book, *Jewish Antiquities,* covering the history of the Jews from the Creation on, gives a particularly full account of the Maccabees and the dynasty of Herod. Though criticized for his subservience to the Romans, he was a passionate defender of Jewish religion and culture as shown in *Against Apion* and in his historical works.

Why is there a discrepancy among Christians as to the location of this holy site? Why might there be many sites that we remain unsure as to the exact original location?

27. The Synagogues of Israel

The synagogue is a building where people of the Jewish faith gather for worship and religious instruction. It is the focus of Jewish life in every community. Ancient temples, including the Temple in Jerusalem, were regarded as dwelling places of the divine being. Priests performed sacrificial rites. The synagogue, in contrast, is a gathering place for the people as a community center. Its services consist of prayer, song, instruction and preaching. The Christian churches and the mosques of Islam were modeled on the synagogue. In this democratic institution, anyone with the requisite scriptural knowledge may lead the prayers and preach.

Despite much theorizing, when and how the synagogue emerged is not known. Synagogue buildings existed in Egypt and Palestine in the last three centuries BC. Long before the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. The synagogues of Palestine and the Diaspora were the functioning centers of Judaism and were used by the Pharisees and their successors, the rabbis to create a unified and informed Jewish community. Today synagogues usually include classrooms, recreational facilities, and offices.

There are many historic synagogues still in use by Israeli communities today. There, as the focal point of the community, the Torah and sacred documents are maintained for the followers.

What are some of the similarities between the Christian Church and Jewish Synagogue? Do not limit yourself to the religion. You may want to consider architecture, purpose, need, design, etcetera.

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28. Christianity in Jerusalem

Christianity is the religion of about 1.8 billion people whose belief system centers on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. To Christians, Jesus was and is the messiah promised by God in the prophecies of the Old Testament. They believe his life, death, and resurrection freed those who believe in him from their sinful state and made them recipients of God's saving grace. Many also await the Second Coming of Christ, which they believe will complete God's plan of salvation. The Christian Bible, or Holy Scripture, includes the Old Testament and also the New Testament, a collection of early Christian writings proclaiming Jesus as lord and savior. Arising in the Jewish milieu of 1st-century Palestine, Christianity quickly spread through the Mediterranean world and in the 4th century became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The tribes of Israel conquered the coastal area west of the Jordan River from the Egyptian border to Mount Carmel. The Greeks as Palestine knew this area currently known as the land of Israel. The invading people, especially the Philistines, pushed the Israelites away from the coast to the country. Israel, the land of the people known eventually as Jews, became a central focus of Western historical and theological concern because of the religious ideas developed by the Jews from about 1200 BC to the beginning of the Christian era. The concepts of monotheism, revelation and covenant shaped this religion.

The area of Lebanon since about the 11th century had been the home of two disparate religious groups. The first group, the Maronites was a Christian group that later became part of the Roman Catholic Church. The second group, the Druze is stems from Shiite Islam. Later other Christian and Muslim groups settled there in Israel and modern Lebanon. This became a mosaic of most of the Christian and Muslim groups to be found in the Middle East.

29.Western Wall and Tunnel

Many of Jerusalem's religious landmarks are located in the Old City. The Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall, is a remnant of the original supporting wall of the Second Temple. After the Jews were banished from the Temple Mount, the Western Wall became the most sacred place of Judaism. This is due to the fact that it is the older remaining structure of the original site of Israel as a Jewish center. Known also as the Wailing Wall because Jews bring their hopes and prayers to this location to be close to God. Many notes and prayers are written on small pieces of paper and placed in cracks in the wall so that they may be heard by God.

Only part of this wall is actually exposed above ground. A large portion of the wall is contained underground and can be viewed through a series of tunnels. This portion of the wall is surrounded by remnants of artifacts from the Israel of long ago. These sacred places maintain their religious significance throughout time.

Why is the temple so important as a religious and historic landmark? What role did the First and the Second Temple play in the life of the ancient Israelites?

The Land

30. The Land of Israel

Israel's land extends for 260 miles from the northern border with Lebanon, Syria to Eilat. The territory it controls extends inland from the Mediterranean for 60 miles including the Palestinian occupied West Bank to the Rift Valley. The valley is a continuation of Africa's Great Rift Valley and is composed in part of the Hula Valley that was drained in the 1950s, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The southern half of Israel west of the Rift Valley is known as the Negev Desert. North of the Negev Desert is a mountainous region rising to 3,963 feet on Mount Meron. The principal lowland is a narrow coastal plain along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

The steeper mountain slopes that cover much of Israel have been severely eroded and are mostly barren. The best soils are found in the Hula, Jordan, and Kishon valleys and the Plain of Esdraelon. The soils of the coastal plain are fertile but sandy, requiring large quantities of water and fertilizer to be productive. Terra rossa soils, found in many upland limestone areas, tend to be shallow, stony, and suitable only for pasture and non-mechanized farming. Some 20% of the total land area can be farmed. Little remains of Israel's natural vegetation and indigenous animal life. The natural forest cover had already disappeared in ancient times, but recent replanting of trees and vegetation has created new forests. Wildlife is also being restored to Israel. The land has no coal, only small deposits of petroleum and natural gas, and no rivers suitable for the generation of hydroelectric power. Israel's principal minerals are potash, produced by evaporation of Dead Sea water, and phosphates.

Israel's climate is Mediterranean in the north and arid in the south. In summer the entire area is dominated by a subtropical high that brings cloudless skies and no precipitation. In winter the southern half of the country remains under the subtropical high, but weather in the northern half is influenced by depressions that pass over the Mediterranean bringing moderate rainfall. Precipitation in the north averages 28 inches falling primarily from October to March. Rainfall amounts diminish rapidly to the south. Beyond Be'er-sheba and Gaza desert conditions predominate. The average summer temperature range from 65 degrees to 90 degrees Fahrenheit over most of the country. Winters are mild with temperatures averaging 57 degrees Fahrenheit along the coast and 48 degrees Fahrenheit in the mountains. The Dead Sea area is one of the hottest regions in the world.

Israel's most important river is the Jordan 124 miles long. Its principal tributary is the Yarmuk. The waters of the Sea of Galilee bordering Syria are fresh while those of the Dead Sea are much saltier than the ocean and rich in minerals. Israel's groundwater resources are being depleted rapidly. The National Water Carrier distributes groundwater and water from the Sea of Galilee by way of the Kinneret-Negev Conduit.

How do Israelis overcome the deficits of dry unfertile soil, poor rainfall and hilly land to allow for farming to take place?

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Bet She'an

31. Bet She'an National Park

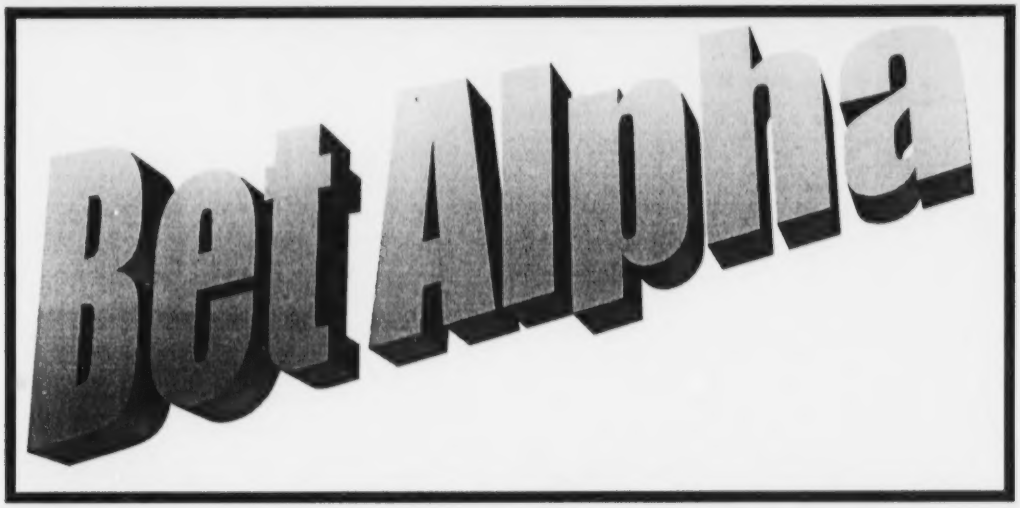
This ancient city dates back to the Bible where several references tell of it enviable location. This city included at theater, a roman amphitheater, a marketplace, churches, monasteries, a synagogue, bathhouses, gate, bridge and main streets that still can be seen today.

Beth-Shan or Beth-Shean, is a city mentioned several times in the Bible. Its ruins are outside present-day Bet She'an City, Israel. It lies south of the Sea of Galilee near the Jordanian border. Occupied almost continually since the 4th millennium BC, the site of Bet She'an contains significant remains dating from the Late Bronze Age when it was a major Egyptian stronghold. These include a mid-14th-century Canaanite-style courtyard and temple complex dedicated to the local Canaanite god Mekal. Its partly roofed forecourt and raised rear sanctuary are similar to the Egyptian shrines of the Amarna period. After the city was captured by the Israelites in the 10th century BC, two more temples were built. The first is similar to the Phoenician-style temple of Jerusalem. After the death of King Saul, the Philistines "put his armor in the house of Ashtoreth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Bet She'an" (1 Samuel 31:10). Under the Greek name Scythopolis, Bet She'an was a city of some importance during the Roman and Byzantine periods when occupation moved off the mound itself and into the valley below.

Alan Rowe of the University of Pennsylvania excavated the site from 1921 to 1933. An Israeli team excavated the remains of Scythopolis and parts of the Roman City have been restored.

The landscape of the Middle East is dotted with artificial mounds known as tells. A tell is an accumulation of rubble spanning thousands of years above the sites of settlements. At Bet She'an this mound is known as Tell el-Husan and it rises 50 meters above the surface of the Jordan Valley.

What can we learn about the people from the remains of a city such as this? How do archeologists identify the layers or changes of the city over time? How are the artifacts found in the city dated?



32.Bet Alpha (or Beit Alfa)

This ancient synagogue is located at the foot of Mount Gilboa near the city of Afula. The ruins of this synagogue were discovered in 1928. between two kibbutzim while digging an irrigation channel. The most striking feature about this synagogue is the beautiful mosaic floor divided into three panels. One of the panels depicts the Ark of the Covenant. The second shows a zodiac circle with astrological signs named in Hebrew. This segment includes the moo, the stars, four women symbolizing the seasons and a youth riding a horse drawn chariot. The third segment of this mosaic is the sacrifice of Isaac as described in the Bible. A very unusual feature about this floor is the dated inscription which translated reads, "This floor was laid down in the year of the reign of Emperor Justinus," Emperor Justinus ruled in this region of Palestine from 518to 527 AD.

The most overwhelming feature of this mosaic tile floor is certainly the amazing way it has been preserved throughout the centuries almost entirely intact.

What might be the meaning behind each the three segments of the mosaic floor? Why relevance do they have in a synagogue? Why would creating a mosaic floor of such great expense be so important to the emperor that he marked his name upon it?

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33. Golan Heights

The Golan Heights is a barren, hilly plateau in southwestern Syria. The area is 444 square miles and rises to 7,297 feet on Mount Hermon. The prewar population of 100,000 Druze has been reduced to about 15,000, plus 11,000 Israeli settlers exist in this area. The central location of this land makes it a crucial military target.

Before 1967, Syria often shelled settlements in northern Israel from the Golan Heights although long-range missiles have reduced the area's strategic importance. Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War then occupied this area. Syria tried but failed to retake the Golan Heights in 1973. A second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II) was sent to the Middle East in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli War in 1973. The Security Council along the disengagement line between Israel and Egypt deployed the team. In 1974, when an arrangement was worked out between Israel and Syria, the Security Council established a small United Nations Disengagement Observer Force with troops drawn from UNEF II. This force was eventually transferred to patrol the Golan Heights. The Golan Heights was formally annexed by Israel in 1981 but was still claimed by Syria. The shift in the climate of Middle East diplomacy in late 1993 raised hopes for a settlement of the Golan controversy.

In 1988 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the United Nations peacekeeping forces. Since its establishment, the United Nations has launched numerous peacekeeping operations in areas of conflict, acting with the consent of the parties involved and using lightly armed troops supplied by member nations. The troops have sometimes merely monitored a truce or a peace agreement and at others times have been sent to bring order to an unsettled situation. United Nations forces were first deployed in 1948 to monitor a truce in the first Arab-Israeli War, and they have subsequently monitored the Golan Heights since 1974 and patrolled in southern Lebanon since 1978.

Why does the United Nations become involved with patrolling areas such as the Golan Heights? What other areas of the world are they assisting with military processes? How does the United Nations financially support these efforts?

34. The Druze

The Druze are a closely-knit religious community estimated at 300,000 to 450,000 people. Most Druze live in Syria and Lebanon yet smaller groups exist in Israel and Jordan. The Druze religion is an offshoot of the Ismailis Muslim religion, which began in the reign of the Fatimid approximately between 996 and 1021 AD. In 1017, it was publicly declared that al-Hakim was the final incarnation of God. This declaration historically founded the religion whose name derives from al-Hakim's first missionary, al-Darazi hence the Druze. The Druzes' first imam, or religious leader, developed the doctrines of the faith, which included the belief that al-Hakim would return on Judgment Day.

For the Druze, belief in Hakim as the final manifestation, the ultimate "location" or incarnation of God, invalidates all other religions. Hence, their description of themselves as monotheists has entirely different meaning. The Druze also believe in God's gradual manifestation in five cosmic manifestations which are universal intelligence, universal soul, the word, the right wing, and the left wing. The most authoritative Druze religious text is the *Book of Wisdom* that is a collection of 111 letters, some of which were written by al-Hakim. The community is divided into two groups: the uqqual and the juhhal. The uqqual are those initiated into the teachings of the religious doctrine. The juhhal comprises the great majority of the population who are unfamiliar with the doctrines and beliefs of the religion.

Truthfulness to one another and mutual support are among the seven basic duties. The Druze with their strong sense of identity does not allow religious conversion or intermarriage. For such an isolated community, they have played a surprisingly important role in the political history of Syria and Lebanon. In Lebanon, they constitute about 7 percent of the population, and are represented politically by the Progressive Socialist party. In 1983 and 1984 they fought a successful war against the Maronite Christians and allied with the Shiite Muslims and forced a reorganization of the government. They continue to play a prominent role in Lebanon's troubled political life.

Why are some Druze unfamiliar with their religious precepts? How does the concept of reincarnation play an important role in the foundations of their religious beliefs?

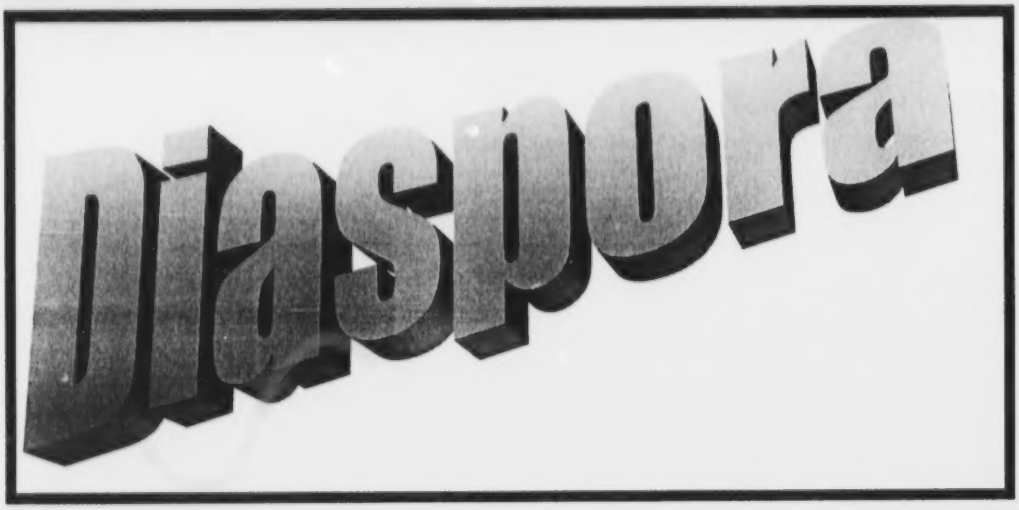
35. Bet She'arim National Park

Bet She'arim National Park is located in Lower Galilee. Discovered at this site are the remains of the ancient Jewish City of Bet She'arim built on a hill and the underground Jewish Cemetery.

During the Second Temple Peop0iod, Bet She'arim was one of the many small Jewish settlements in this area. In 1871, the first survey was done of this ancient city and was researched by the Palestine Exploration Fund. Following a theory, Alexander Zaid located the ancient burial chambers located in the slope of the hill upon which the city was built. Excavations were carried out between1936 band 1940 and then later under the direction of Professor Nachman Avigad from 1953 to 1957. Found at the site were the remains of a synagogue, public building, religious school, dwelling house, city walls, a gate, an olive plant and more than thirty burial caves.

This site is among the most splendid in Israel as the caves are hewn from the bedrock of the hill and constitute a huge necropolis. The entrance to every cave has an impressive façade in a classical architectural style. In the center is a pivotal door on hinges leading to subterranean burial chambers. Inside the chambers are numerous sarcophaguses. In addition, the walls of the chamber are decorations and inscriptions in Hebrew, Aramaic, Palmyran and Greek attesting to the origins, professions and family ties of the interred. These remains shed light on Jewish life and the Diaspora during this period.

How are these remains so informative about the past of the individuals buried here? Why is this city so unusual? Why were the inscriptions found in so many different languages?



36. The Diaspora

The word Diaspora comes from a Greek word meaning "dispersion". It refers to the various Jewish communities outside Palestine, which were forced to flee their homeland and establish settlements around the world. Jewish settlements were established in ancient Babylon and Egypt as a result of commerce and exile after the destruction of the Temple in 586 BC while others developed throughout the Mediterranean after the Jewish revolts against Rome in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Local synagogues provided focal points in lieu of the distant Temple of Jerusalem and acted as community centers. Today the term Diaspora is still used to designate the settlements of Jews outside of the modern Jewish State of Israel.

The Diaspora Museum in Tel-Aviv commemorates the dispersion of the Jews throughout the world and celebrated the diversity and strength of the people of Israel.

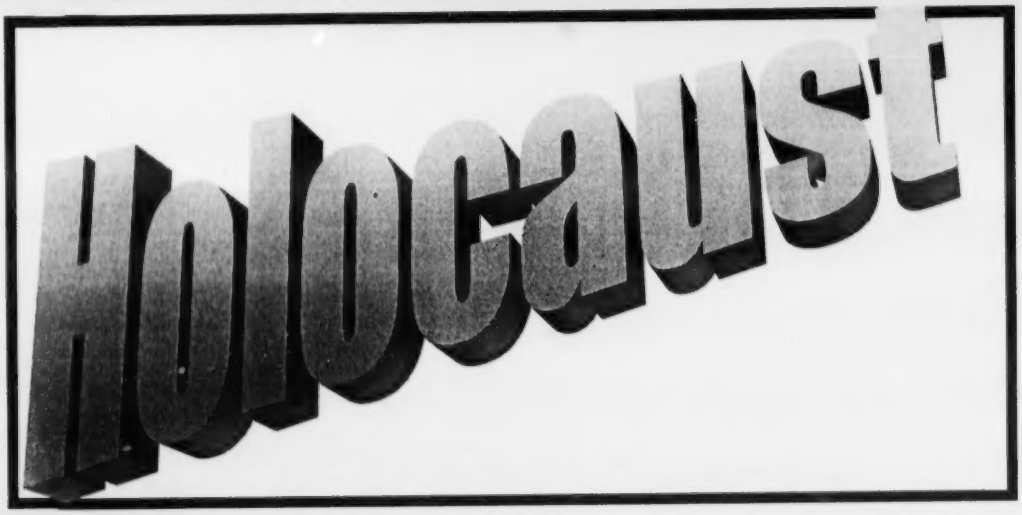
What is the Zionist Movement? What has brought these Jewish people from foreign lands back to Israel? Why have other not returned?

37.Yitzhak Rabin

Yitzhak Rabin, born on March 1, 1922, was Israel's Prime Minister from 1974 to 1977 and again from 1992 until his death. As chief of staff of the armed forces, he planned the 1967 Israeli victory in the Six-Day War. He also served as Israel's ambassador to the United States between 1968 and 1973. Rabin resigned as Prime Minister in 1977 after violating Israeli currency regulations by depositing $21,000 in a United States bank. He regained prominence as defense minister in 1984. In 1992, Rabin recaptured leadership of the Labor party from rival Shimon Peres; and he succeeded Yitzhak Shamir as Prime Minister after elections in June. The pragmatic Rabin signed accords on Palestinian self-rule with Yasir Arafat on Sept. 13, 1993, May 4, 1994, and Sept. 28, 1995, and a peace agreement with King Hussein I of Jordan on July 25, 1994. Rabin, who shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with Shimon Peres and Yasir Arafat, was assassinated by a Jewish extremist opposed to the peace agreements.

His memory is commemorated in Tel-Aviv at the location of his assassination. A wall of remark of peace attests to his desire for peace in Israel and a plaque and shrine remembers the man that led Israel.

Why was Yitzhak Rabin's assassination so tragic for the people of Israel? Why was he killed by an Israeli Jew? What differing opinions exist amongst the sects of Jews in Israel?



38.The Holocaust

Holocaust, an Old Testament sacrificial term, is used by historians to describe the massacre of millions of Jews by the German Nazis during World War II. Adolf Hitler gave top priority to removing the Jews from Germany and called it The Final Solution. Between 1933 and 1938 the Nazis boycotted Jewish businesses, established quotas in Germany's professions and schools, forbade intermarriage between Jews and Gentiles in the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 and instituted the first concentration camps at Oranienburg, Buchenwald, and Dachau

After World War II began in September 1939, 3 million Polish Jews were subjected to tortures associated with the policies of the Nazis. Reinhard Heydrich, an aide to Heinrich Himmler, issued a ghetto decree, and Jews were sent to areas that were poorly maintained in order to segregate them from the rest of the population. As 700,000 died of disease and starvation during the next 2 years, the Nazis began deporting Jews. The Nazis used the assassination of Ernst Von Rath, a German legation secretary in Paris, as an excuse for Kristallnacht or "the night of broken glass" from Nov. 9th to the 10th in 1938. Storm troopers burned 267 synagogues and arrested 20,000 people on those horrible evenings. Germany's Jews were also required to pay an atonement fine of $400 million for the damage to their own property.

When Germany attacked the USSR in June 1941, four special "strike squads" were deployed against Soviet Jewish civilians. The worst atrocity committed by these squads occurred in Kiev where 33,771 Jews were machine-gunned on September 29-30, 1941. During the next three years, Jews represented more than half of those exterminated as undesirables in concentration camps. Methods of killing at Auschwitz and other camps included cyanide gas or carbon monoxide gas, electrocution, phenol injections, flame-throwers, and hand grenades. Lacking weapons weakened by disease and starvation, and isolated from the Allies, Jews fiercely resisted the Nazis throughout the war. Perhaps as many as 60,000 joined the units that operated from North Africa to Belorussia. Ghetto uprisings occurred in Krakow, Bialystok, Vilna, Kaunas, Minsk, and Slutsk, as well as in Warsaw. Jewish inmates destroyed Sobibor and Treblinka and led rebellions in 15 other concentration camps. Despite these efforts, when World War II ended, two-thirds of Europe's Jews had been murdered and more than had been slain in pogroms during the previous 1,800.

How have we commemorated the victims of the Holocaust? How did the Allies allow this to happen to millions of Jews during World War II? How was the Holocaust finally terminated?

39. David Ben-Gurion

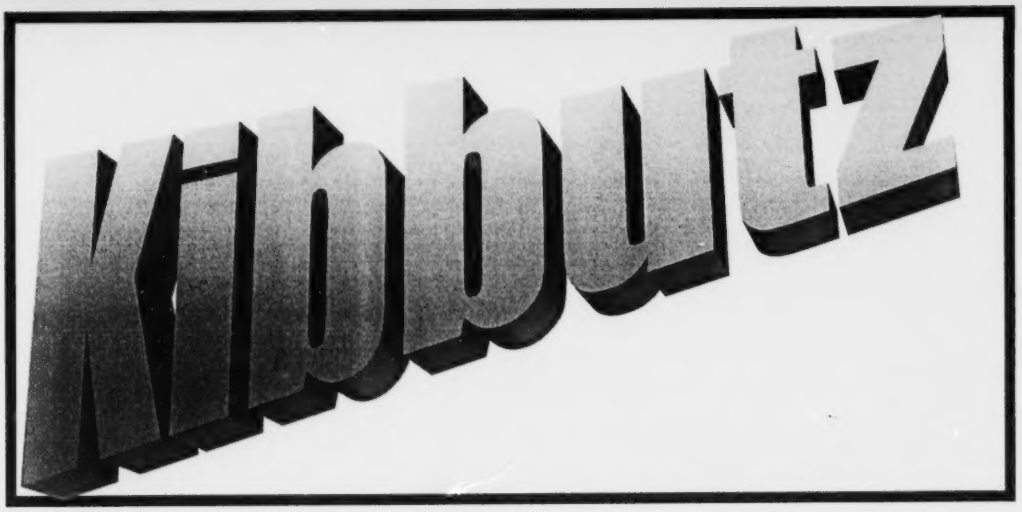
David Ben-Gurion was the first Prime Minister of Israel and its leading personality during the first 15 years of the Jewish State. He was born on Oct. 16, 1886, in Poland and originally named David Grun. From 1906, when he arrived in Palestine, until 1910 he was an agricultural laborer. To familiarize himself with the language and law of Palestine's Turkish rulers, he studied at the University of Constantinople in 1912 and became an Ottoman Turkish national to strengthen Jewish ties with the government. Nevertheless, during World War I he was banished by the Ottoman military authorities for rebellious activities and fled to New York. When an American battalion of the Jewish Legion was formed under auspices of the British Army in 1918, Ben-Gurion joined. He became a corporal during service in the final Middle Eastern campaigns of the war.

After World War I, Ben-Gurion rose rapidly as a leader of the Zionist labor movement in Palestine. He was one of the founders of the General Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine in 1920 and its secretary-general from 1921 to 1935. He was also a founder Mapai Labor party. From 1935 to 1948 he was chairman of the World Zionist movement's Jewish Agency for Palestine.

At the end of World War II, Ben-Gurion led an activist campaign to establish a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine, which had been under British mandate since 1920. He escaped arrest when the British interned other members of the Jewish Agency during June 1946 because he was in Paris. When the British mandate was about to end in May 1948 Ben-Gurion urged an immediate declaration of independence for Israel on May 14, 1948. For the next 15 years Ben-Gurion was Israel's most renowned leader, serving as Prime Minister and Defense Minister until he retired in 1963. He then withdrew from politics and lived on a desert kibbutz. He died on Dec. 1, 1973.

Ben-Gurion's major achievements were the establishment of Israel's armed forces. He assisted in their development into one of the strongest military machines in the Middle East defining defense and military policies that gave Israel the status of a Middle Eastern power. He helped to create a sense of national identity and unity from diverse political factions and Jewish ethnic groups. He also brought together national and foreign resources that enabled Israel to more than quadruple its population during the first 15 years of its history.

How was David Ben-Gurion instrumental in the development of the state of Israel? Can he be compared to any other political figure in history?



40.The Kibbutz

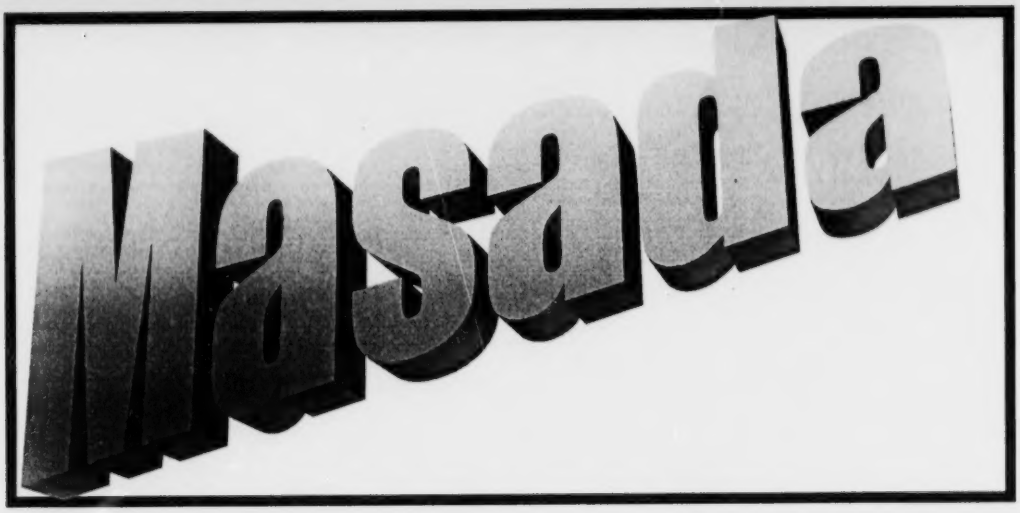
A kibbutz is an Israeli settlement whose members collectively farm land owned in common and share equally in work, housing, food, and whatever profits accrue. Individuals are given employment and are paid wages that are equal to every other member. Additional funds are provided for each child in a family. All property is owned by the collective and the number of persons in a household determines housing.

Seven agricultural workers founded the first kibbutz, Degania, in 1910 as an experiment. Other kibbutzim soon followed which played an important role in the Jewish settlement of Palestine as part of the international Zionist movement. The movement stressed the need to create agricultural roots in the Jewish homeland. Most immigrants to Palestine were familiar with middle-class occupations but not agriculture. The kibbutz runs on principles that emphasize equality and the dignity of manual work. This served both to have settlers become accustom to settlers to a underdeveloped country where group work was essential to survival and to settle territory in Palestine.

From approximatly1935 to 1945 the growth of the kibbutzim was particularly rapid as European Jews fled persecution and the Nazi Holocaust. Kibbutz members were frequently leaders in the new Jewish State. Prime Ministers David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meier were both kibbutz members at one point in their lives. Their legacy continues to play important political roles. The country home of David Ben-Gurion and his grave can be visited on the kibbutz where he once lived.

Nevertheless, many kibbutzim no longer operate according to strict socialist principles. In the mid-1990s, approximately 3 percent of Israel's population lived in 270 kibbutzim. Most of these owned their own factories or processing plants and employed some laborers from outside the kibbutz.

In what ways do the members of a kibbutz share the responsibilities of daily living? How does this benefit the common mission?



41.Masada

The natural rock fortress of Masada, on the western shore of the Dead Sea in southeast Israel, was the final outpost of the Jewish Zealots in their revolt against Rome during the 1st century AD. According to the historian Josephus Flavous it was first built between 160 and 142 BC. Following the return of Herod the Great from Rome in 39 BC a new fortress was built on this site. Little is known of Masada during the period following Herod's death at the beginning of the Jewish Revolt. This Romans were expelled by the Zealots, who maintained control of the fortress until 73 AD. During this time the Zealots held out against the Romans until finally they were overcome. During the final siege 960 Zealot committed mass suicide to avoid being captured by the Romans.

Remains of the pre-Herodian period include Iron Age pottery fragments dating from the 10th to the 7th century BC and coins struck during the reign of Alexander Janneus dating back as far as 103 BC. Herod surrounded the upper plateau of Masada with a surrounding wall and three gateways. The northern palace, built on three rock terraces has magnificent views. The sizable western palace complex was divided into three parts including a king's residence, a workshop block with servants' quarters and a series of storerooms. The king's residence contained a throne room entered by a large hall bearing a multicolored floor mosaic depicting floral and geometric motifs. A large bathhouse based on Roman designs was fed by rows of enormous cisterns. Water was provided by an aqueduct extending from the wadis north and south of the rock to 12 large reservoirs in the cliff face from which the water was delivered to cisterns cut into the summit.

During the period of the revolt between 66 and 73 AD, dwellings were founded in the earlier buildings including the compartments in the walls. Archeologists have found a number of scroll fragments. Eight large camps surrounding the base of the rock represent remains of the complicated Roman siege works.

During the Byzantine period, a small church was built near the site of Herod's western palace. First identified by the American historical geographer Edward Robinson in 1838. Masada was systematically excavated in 1963 by the Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin for Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society and Department of Antiquities.

Read the story of Masada. How were the Zealots able to survive under complete isolation? What was the driving force which led them to mass suicide?

42.The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is a salt lake located on the border between Israel and Jordan. Its shoreline is the lowest point on the Earth's surface, approximately 1,300 feet below sea level. The lake is 405 square miles in area. Its depth ranges from a maximum of 1,310 feet in the north to less than 9 feet in the south. Some of the water from its major tributary, the Jordan River, has been diverted for irrigation, reducing the flow into the lake and lowering its level. A peninsula of land now cuts off the southern quarter of the lake, which is fed water through an artificial channel and consists almost entirely of evaporation ponds.

The lake occupies the lowest trench in the Great Rift Valley. Flanked on east and west by parallel ridges of sandstone and dolomite, it has no outlet, but evaporates at the rate of about 55 inches annually. The Dead Sea is about seven times as salty as the ocean. Amazingly, its density keeps swimmers completely afloat. Only simple organisms can live in its saline waters. The area is extremely hot and dry with an annual rainfall of only about 2 inches

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The lake features prominently in Jewish history and is associated with Abraham, Lot, David, Solomon and the defenders of Masada. The first Dead Sea Scrolls were found at Qumran on the northeastern shore. The Dead Sea Scrolls can be viewed at the Israel Museum.

What caused this amazing concentration of salt and minerals in this particular body of water? What are the minerals extracted from the Dead Sea used for? What is the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls?

AN EXPERIENCE GUIDE

EGYPT AND ISRAEL

2000

PHOTOGRAPHS

Laura Feijoo

Fulbright Hayes Scholarship Program

Summer Seminars Abroad 2000

Curriculum Guide

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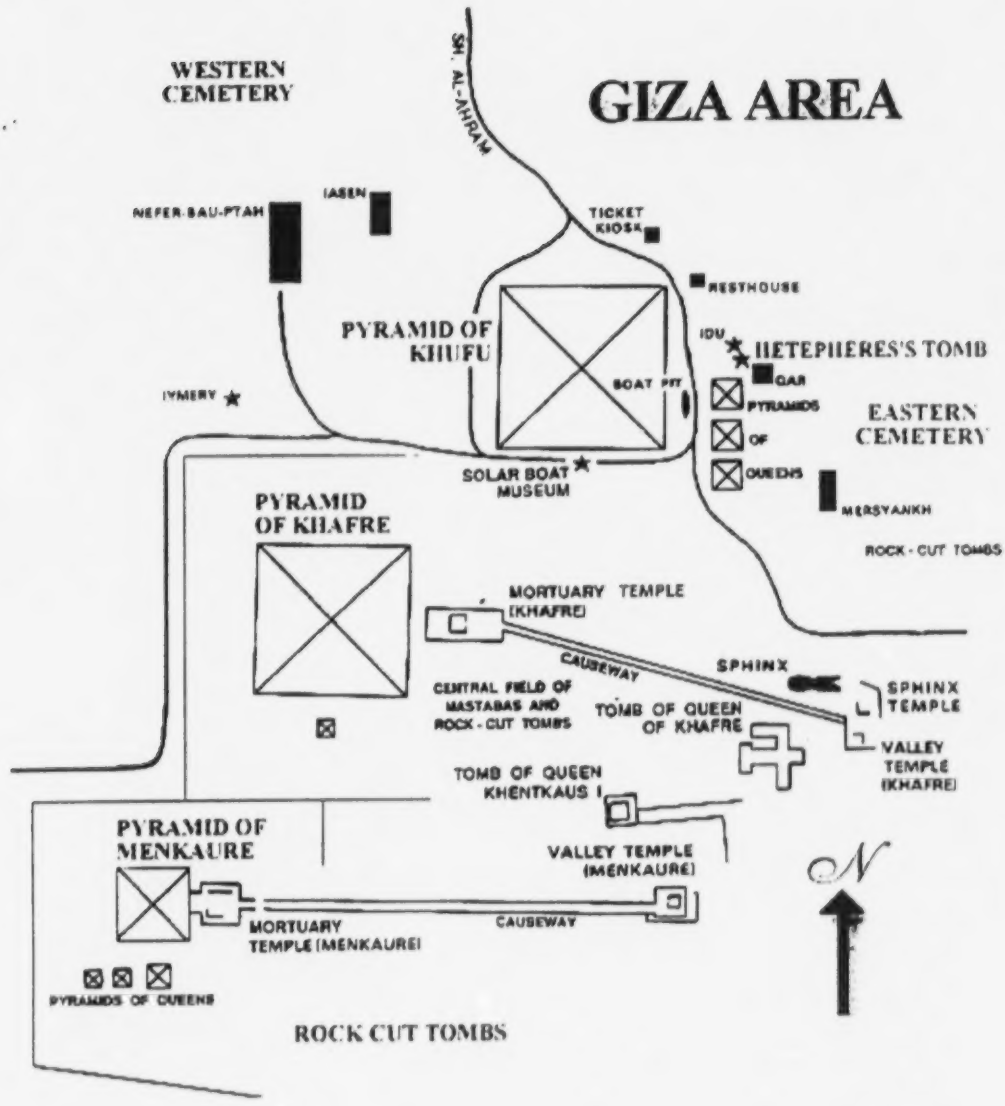

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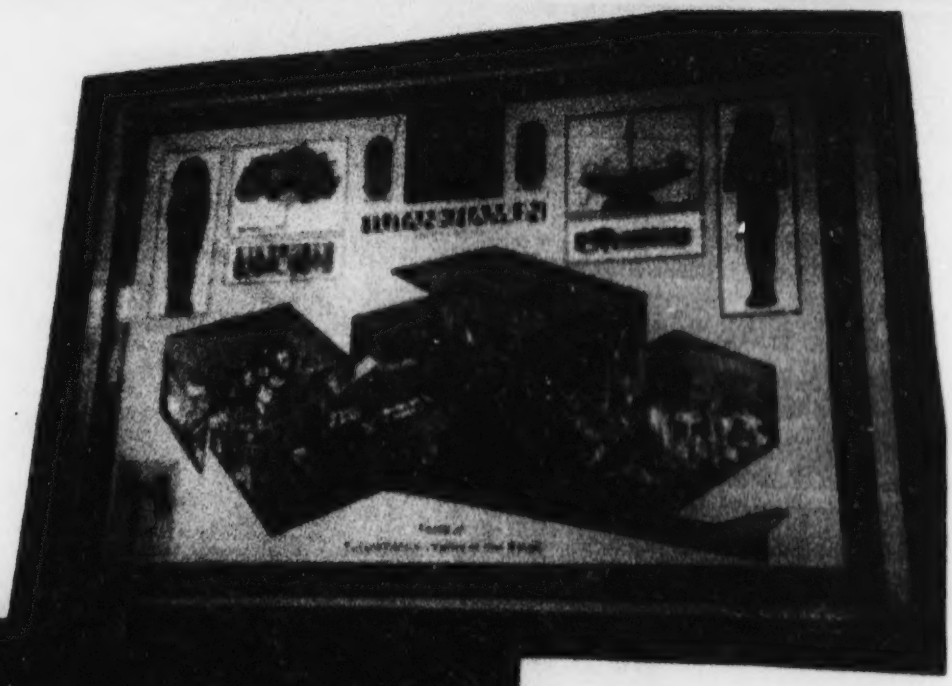

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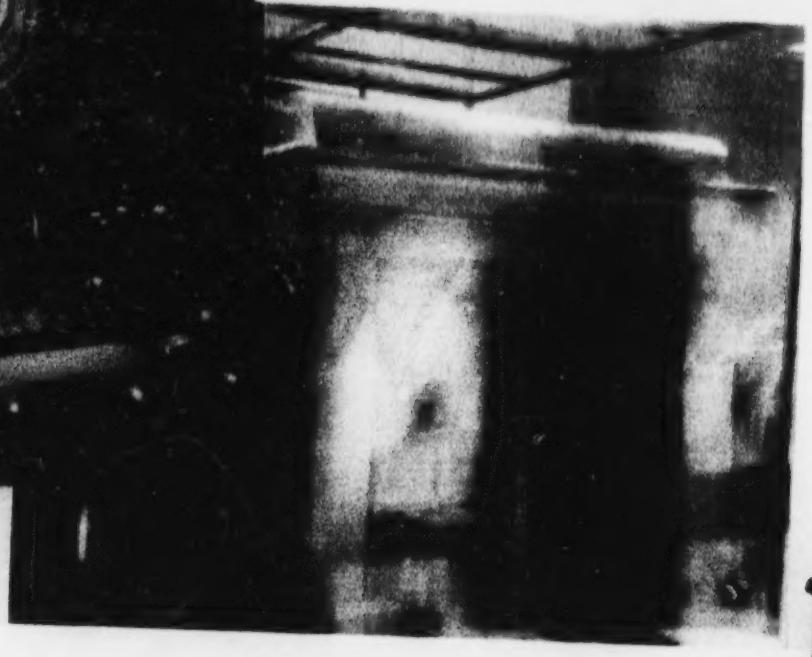

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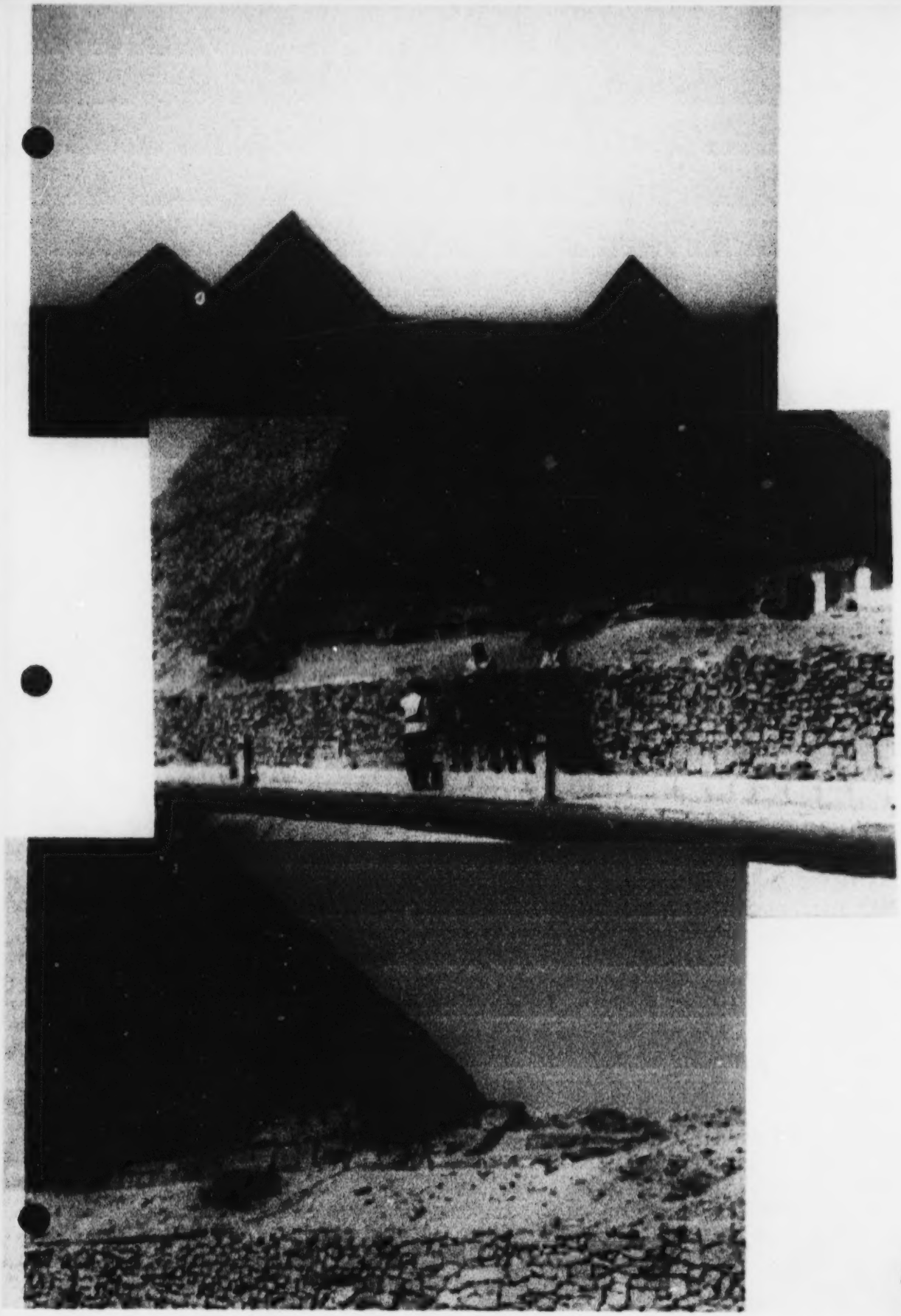

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Giza Pyramids
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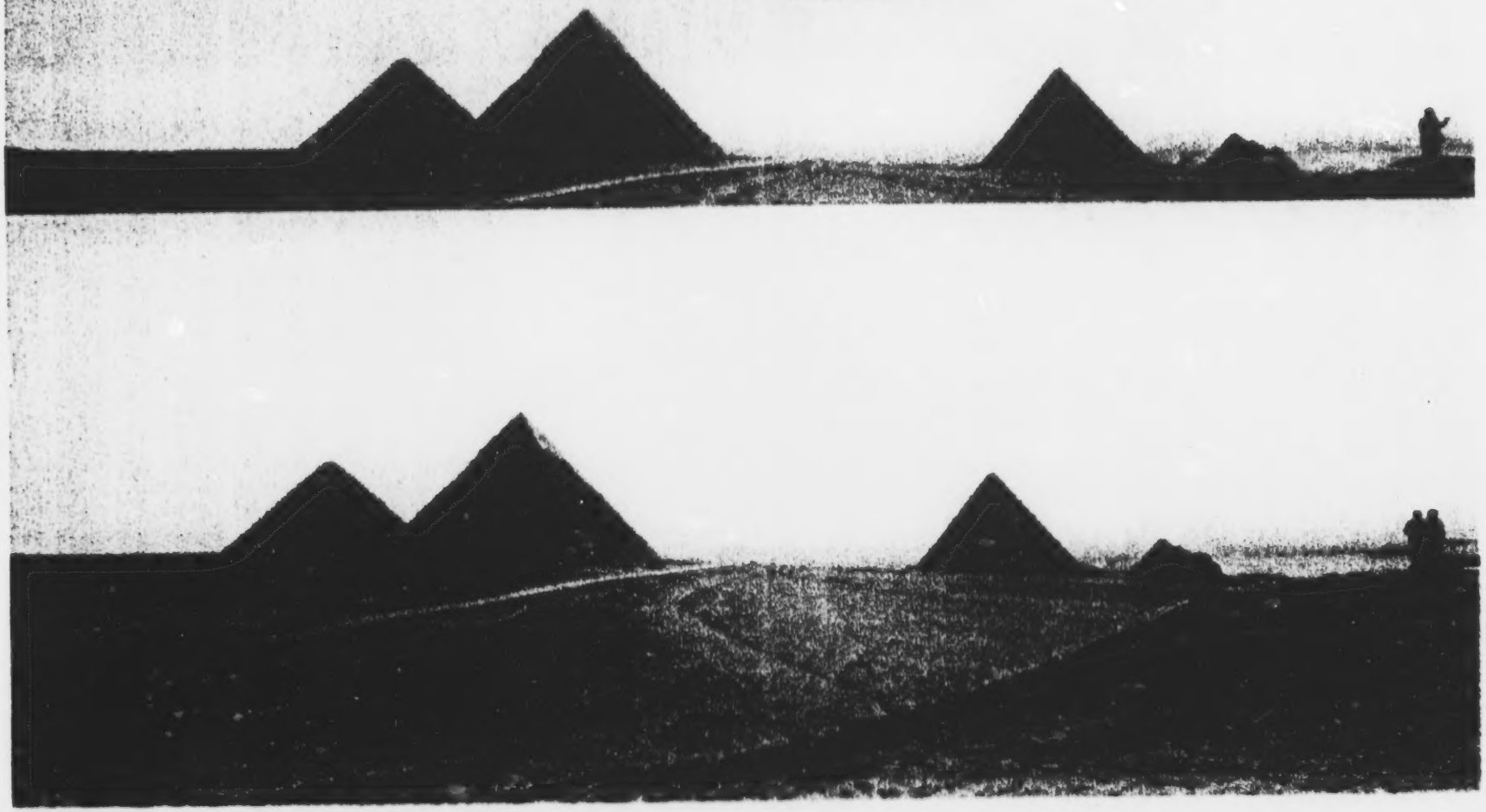

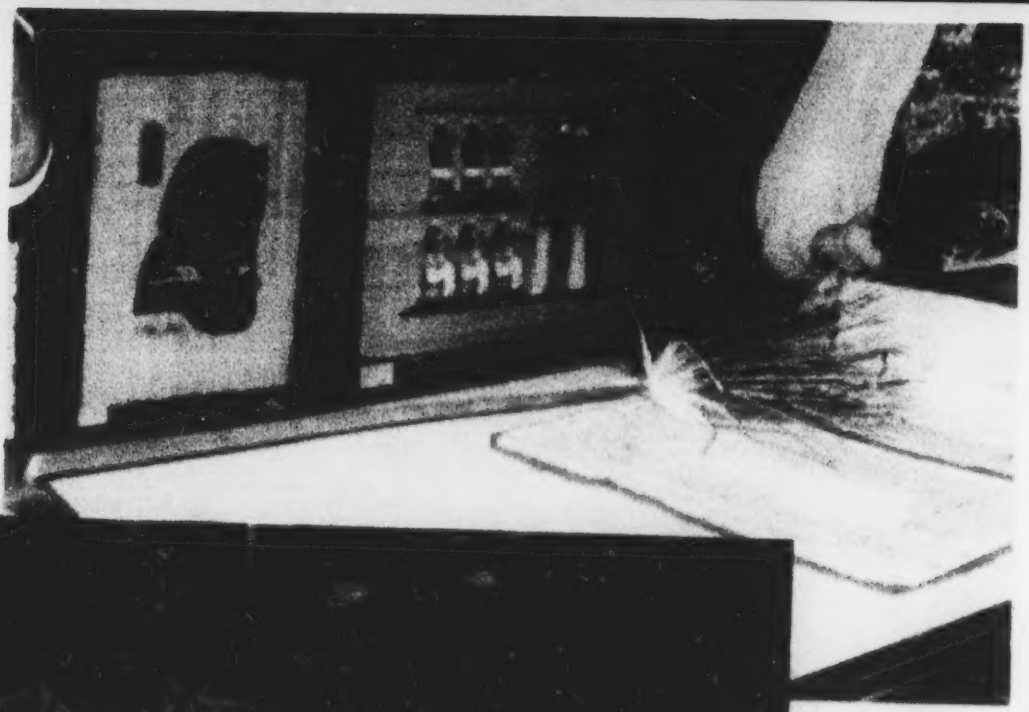

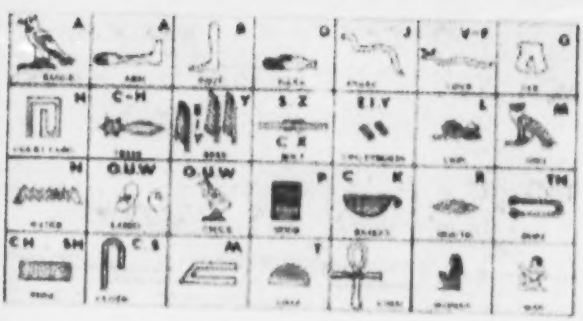

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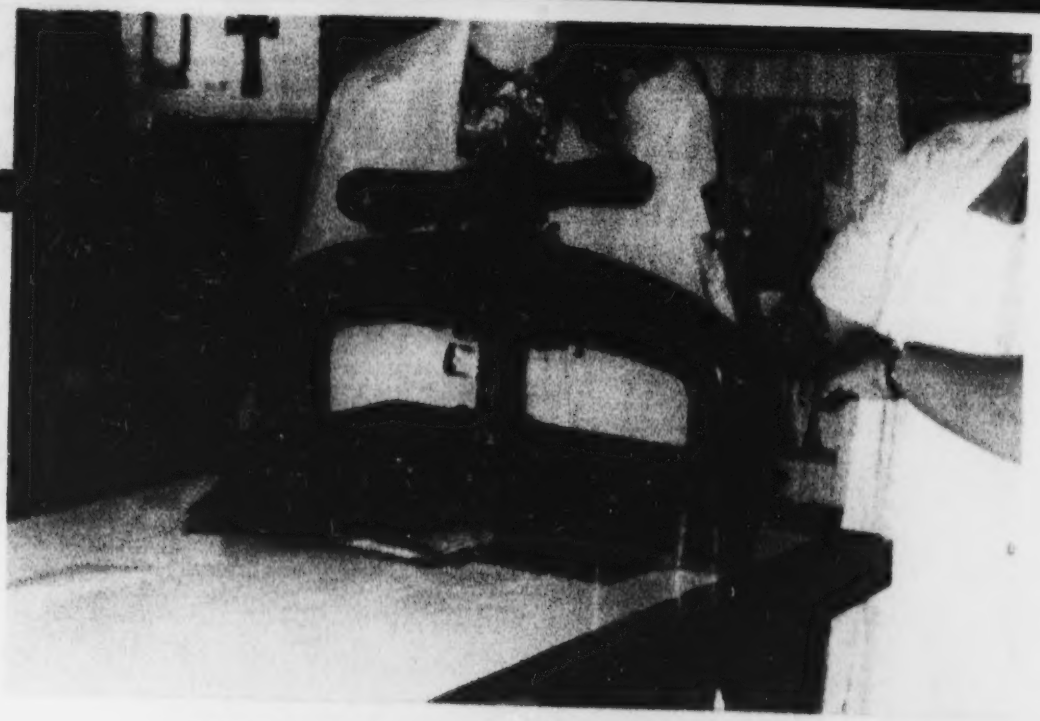

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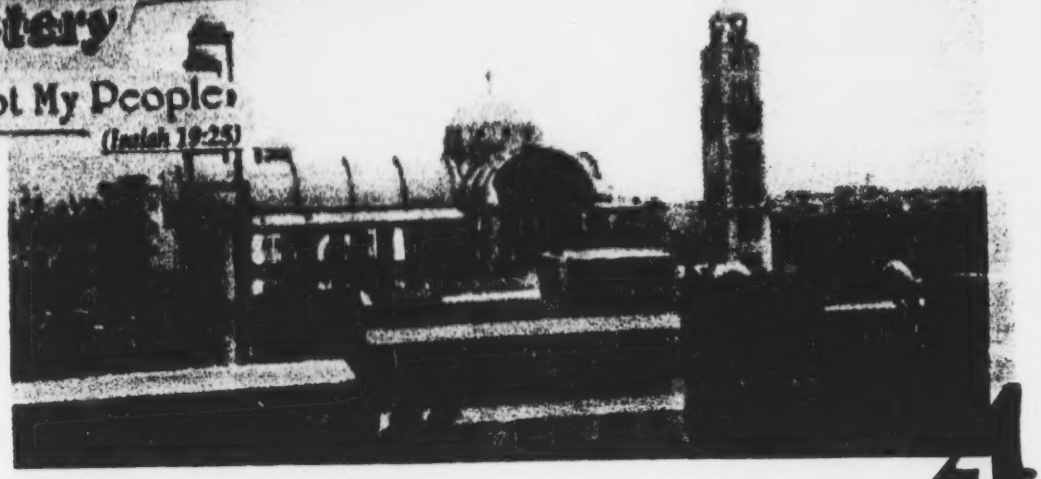
St. Barsoum El-Erian Monastery

«Blessed Be Egypt My People»
(Isaiah 19:25)



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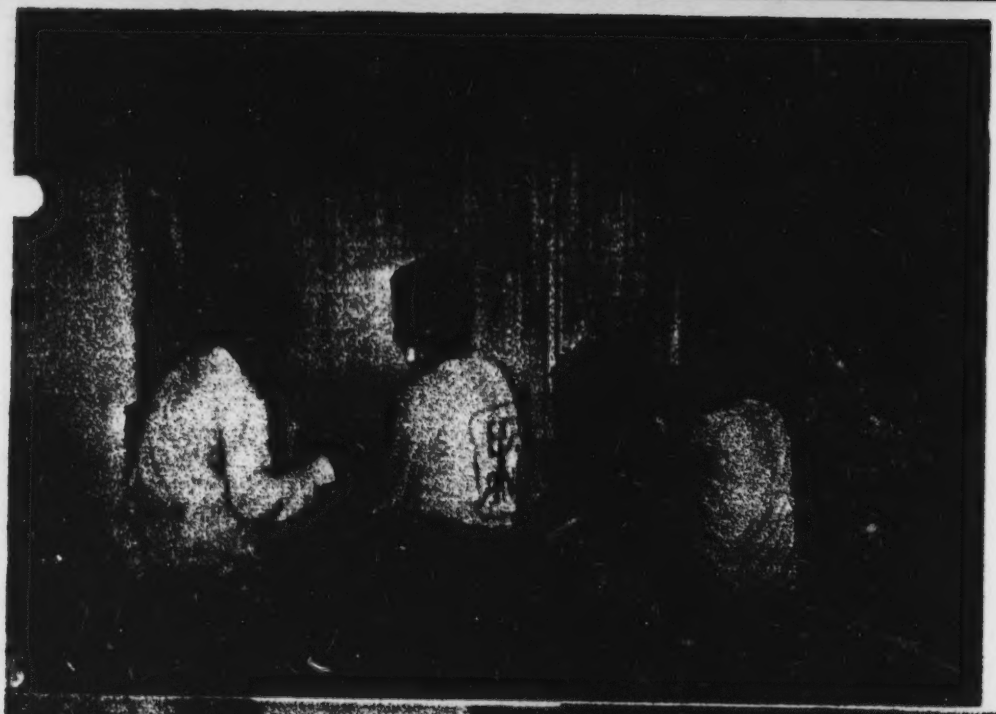

..oom Workshop :
Hand-Made Persian Carpets. Woven rugs, tapestries, bags, scarves tablecloths, bedspreads & shawls for priests.

4

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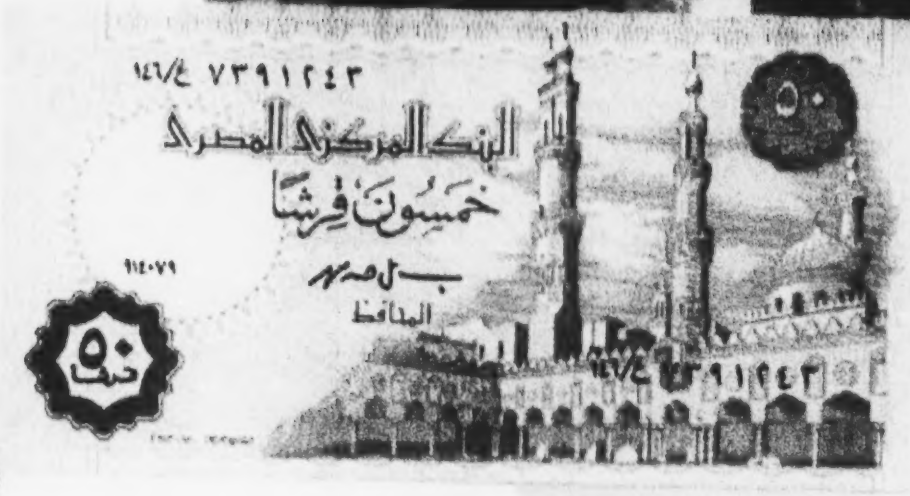
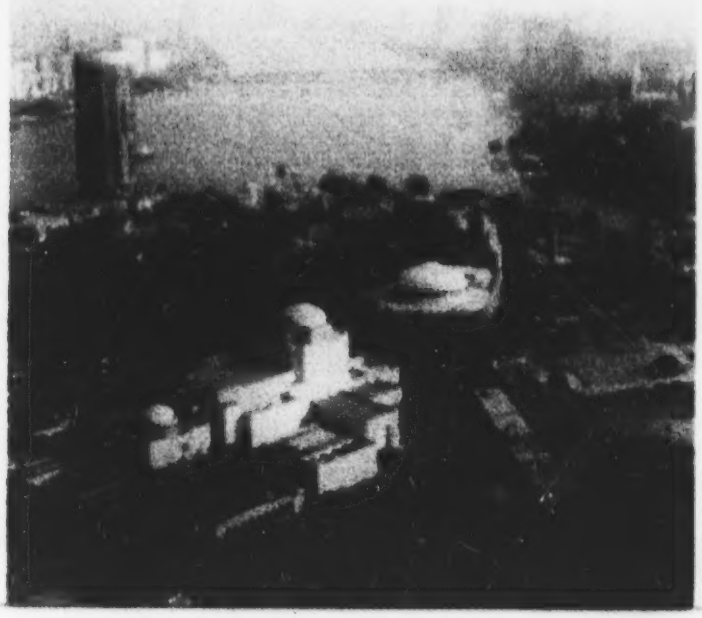
4





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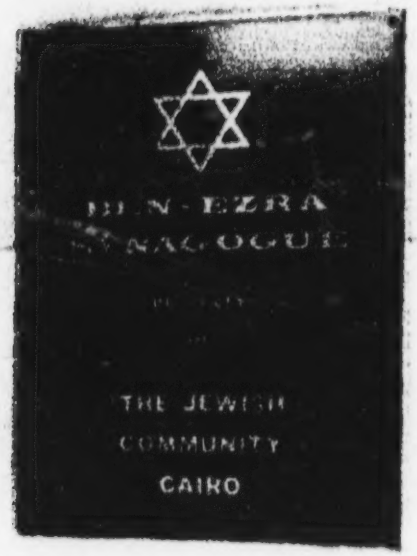
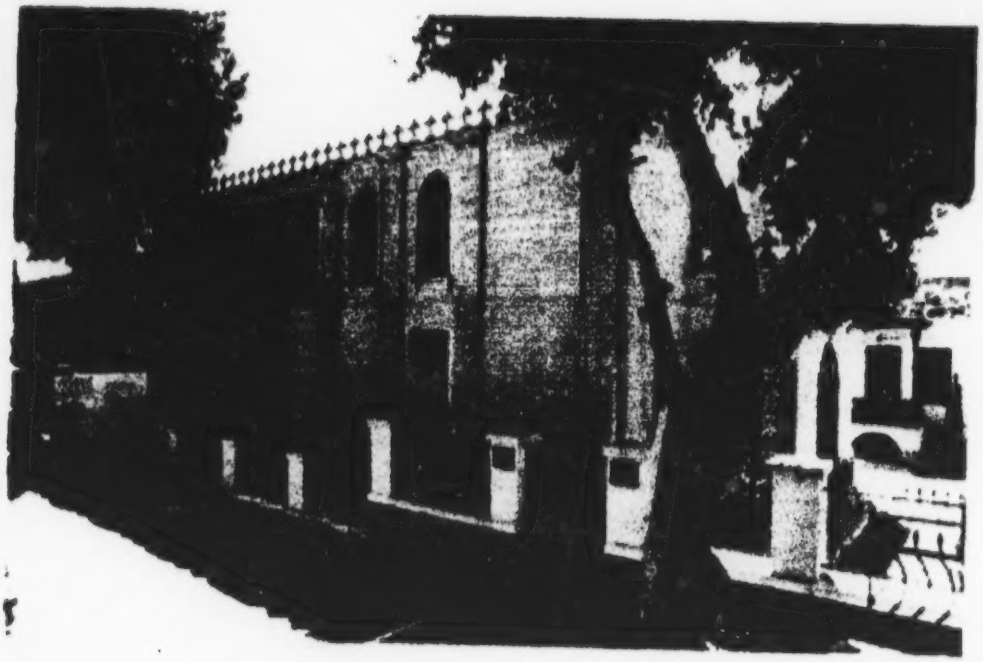
57

HANGING CHURCH 6

6





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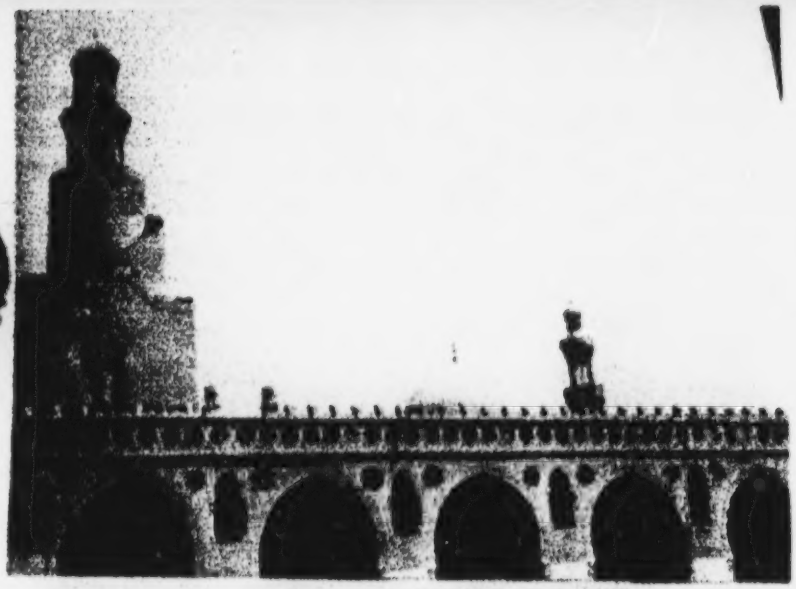
Mosque of Al-Rifa'i

12 L.E. ٠٦٧٣٢٠



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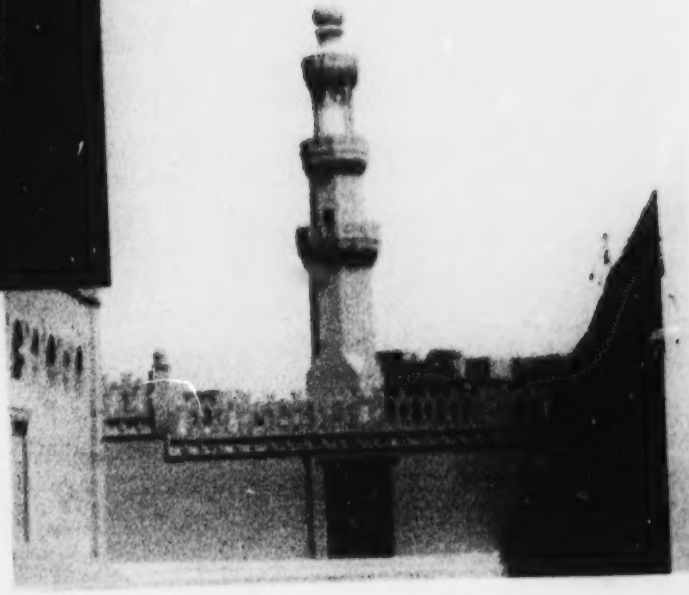
7-1



Mosque of Sultan Hassan

12 ١٢ ٢٥١٠١٦ ٥٠

7-1

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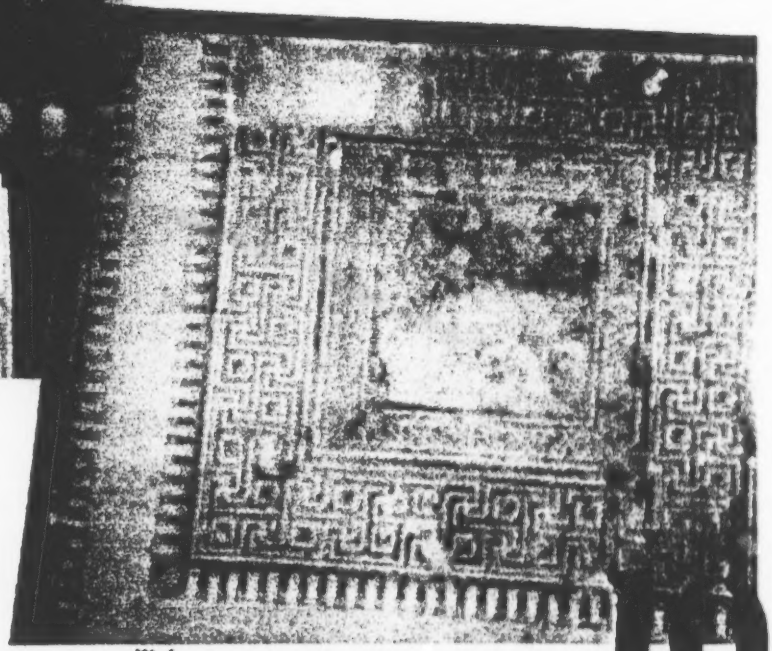
9

The Gallo-Roman Museum

16 L.L. ١٢٢١٤٧



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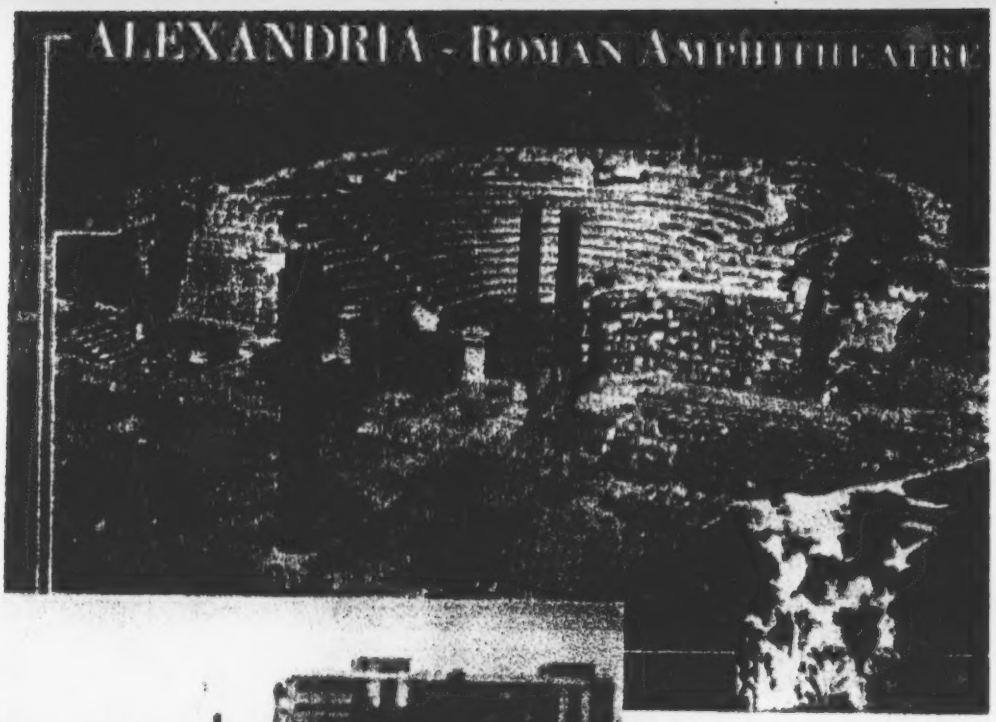

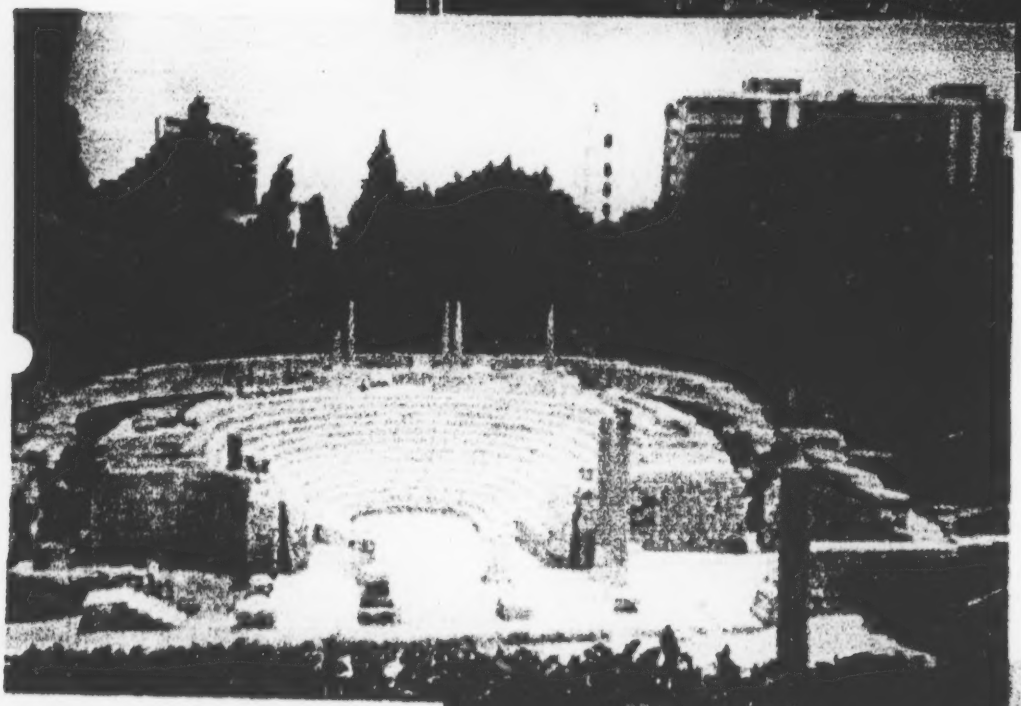

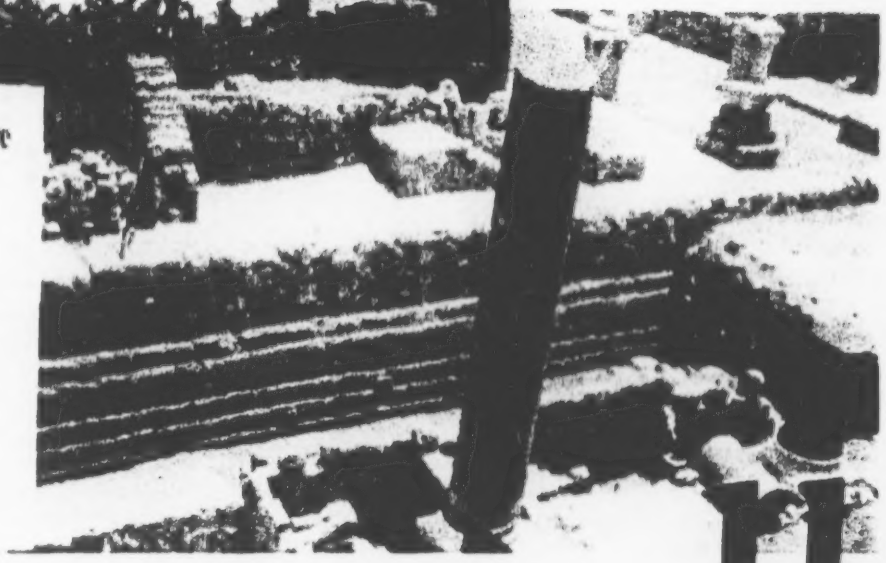

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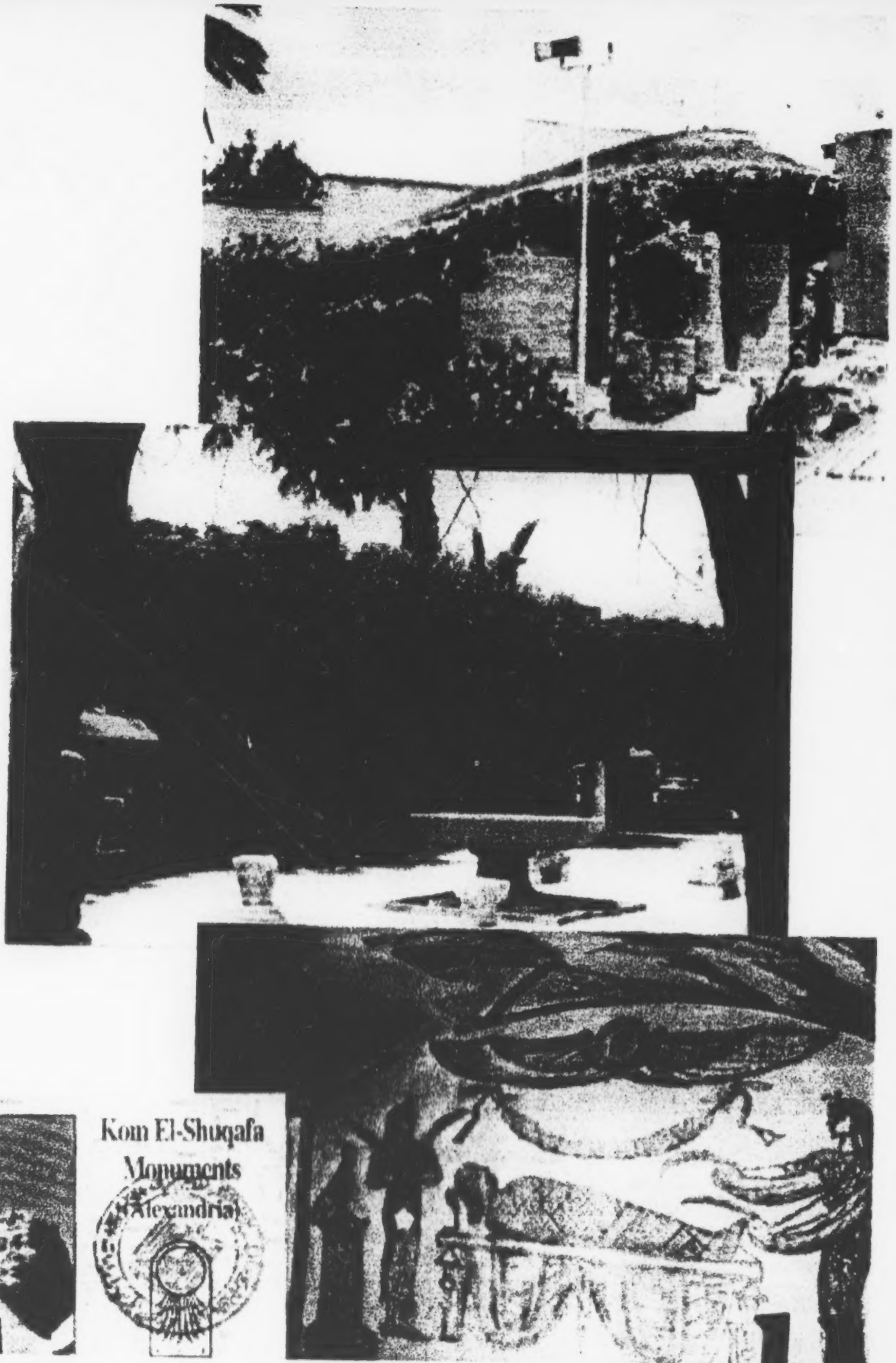
THE CATACOMBS



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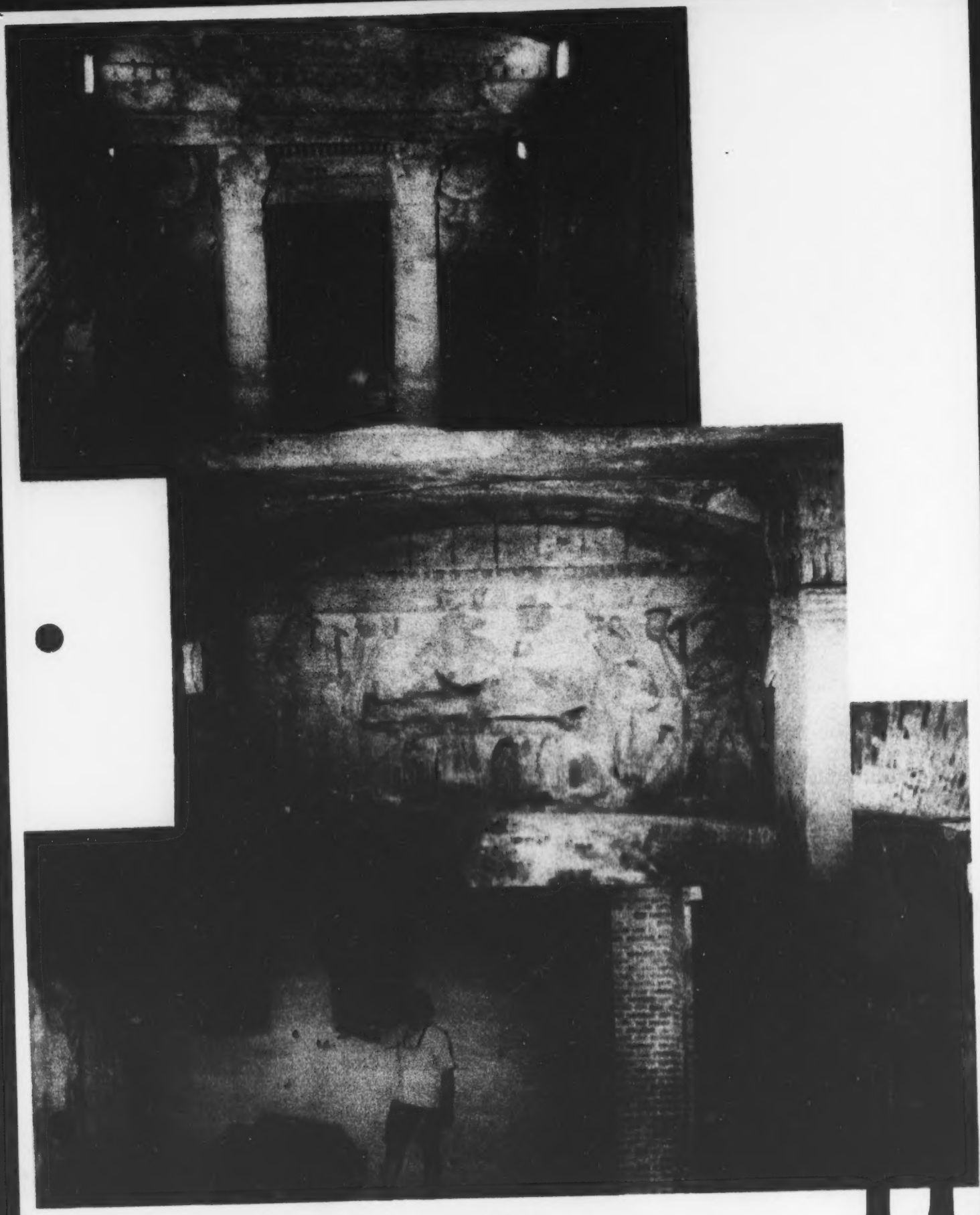
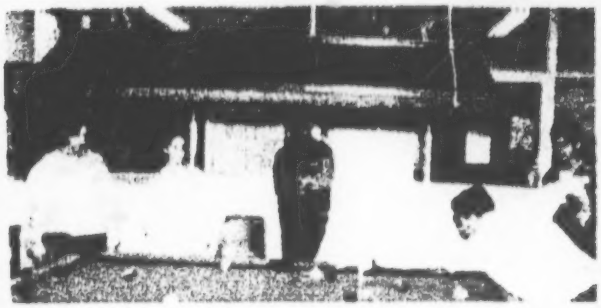
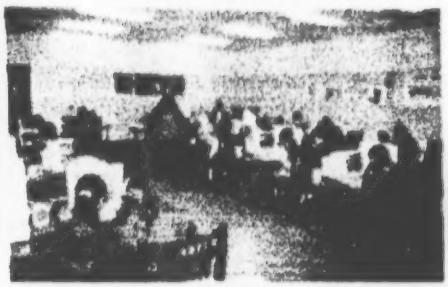


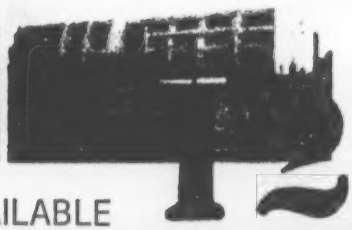
NEFERTARI

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

7-3







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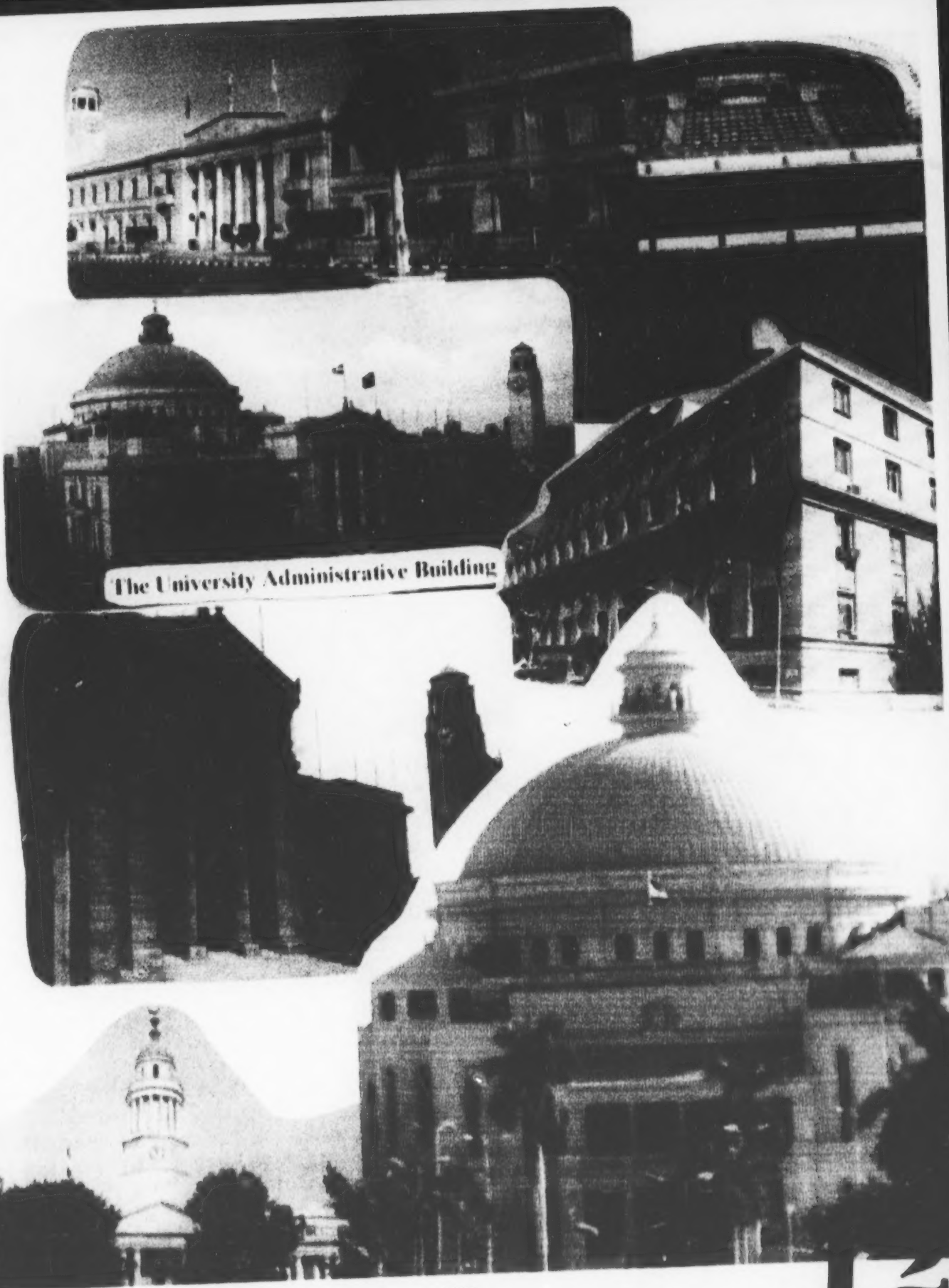
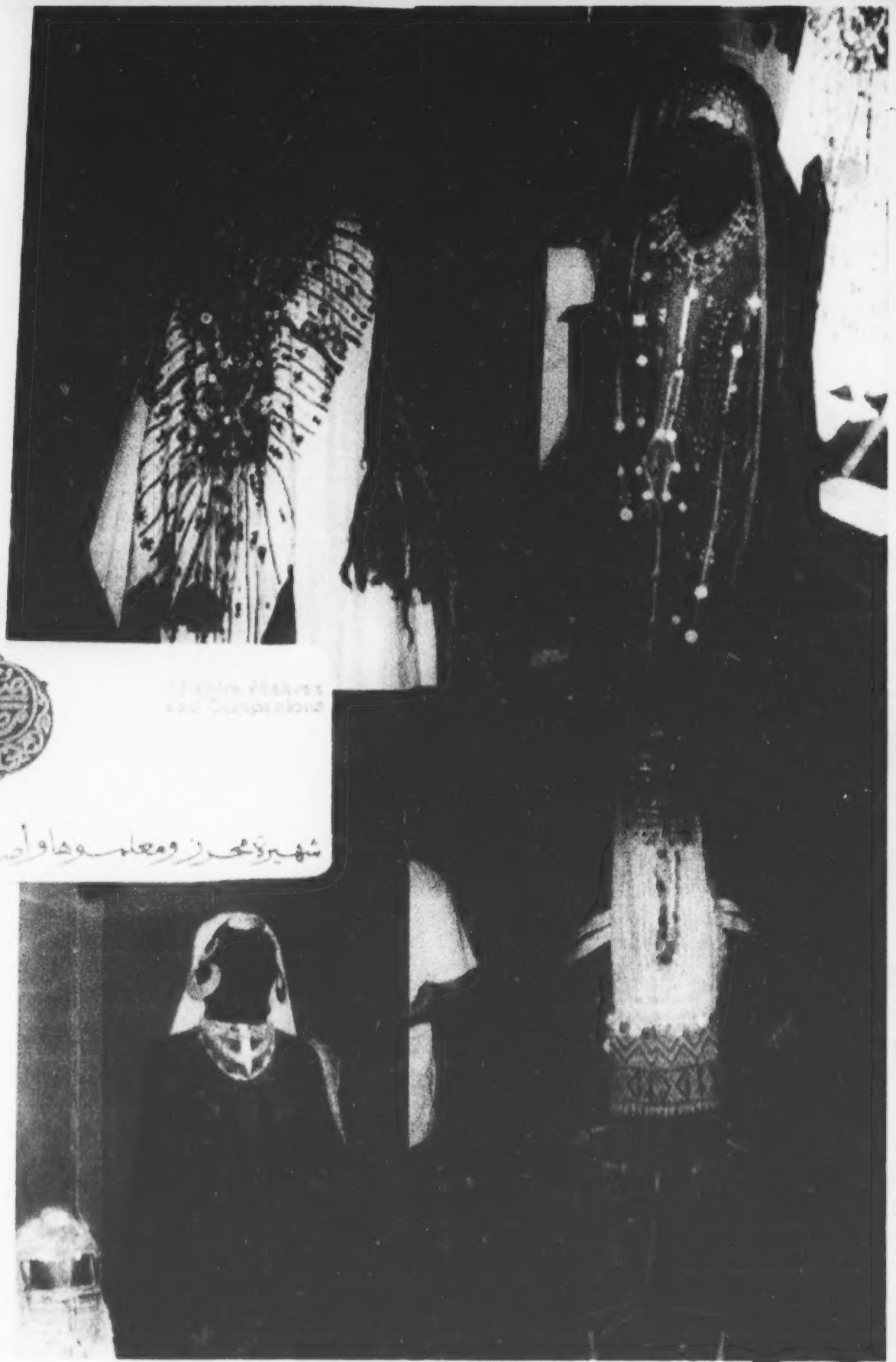


The University Administrative Building



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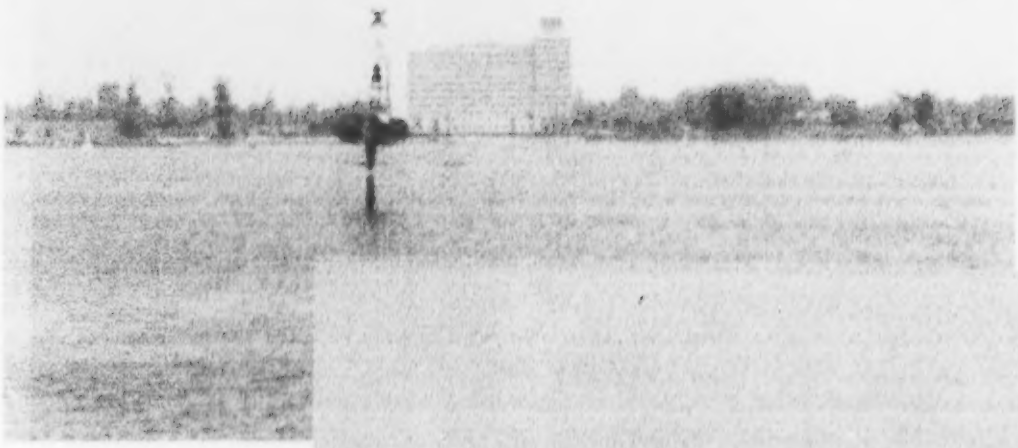
SUEZ CANAL



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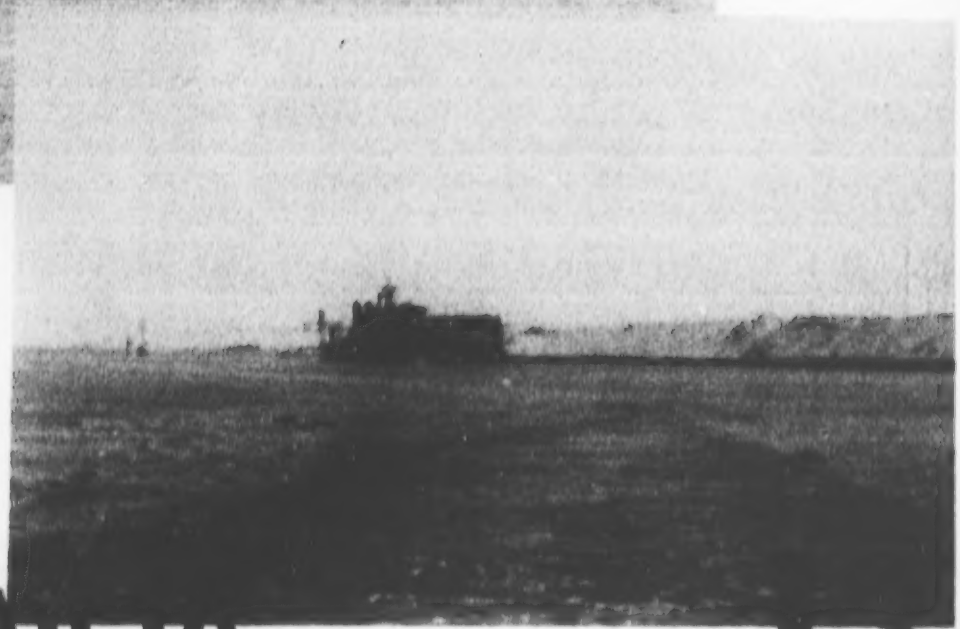

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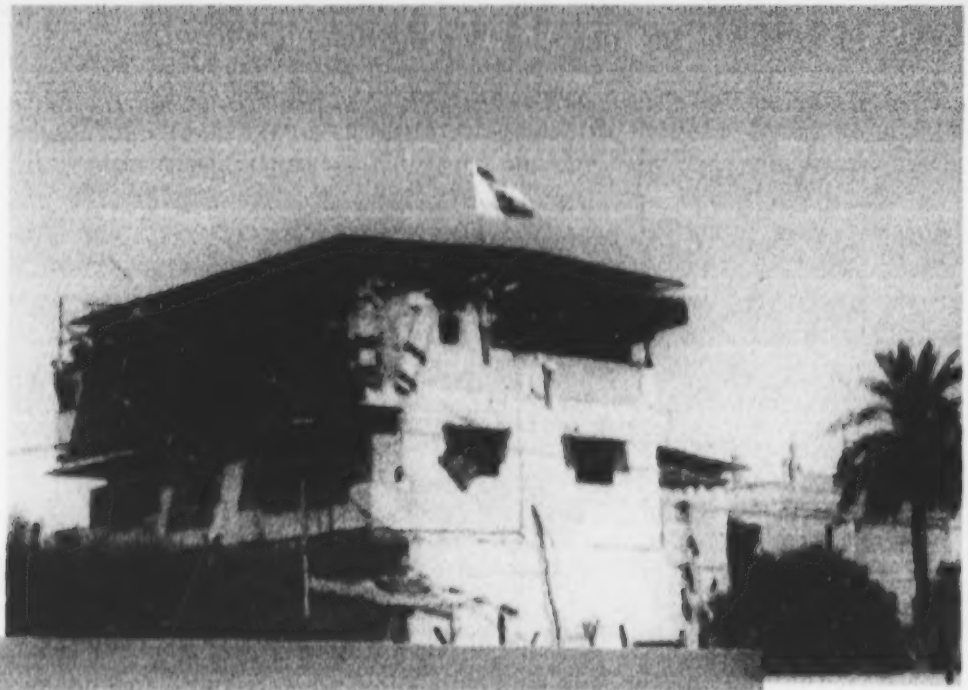

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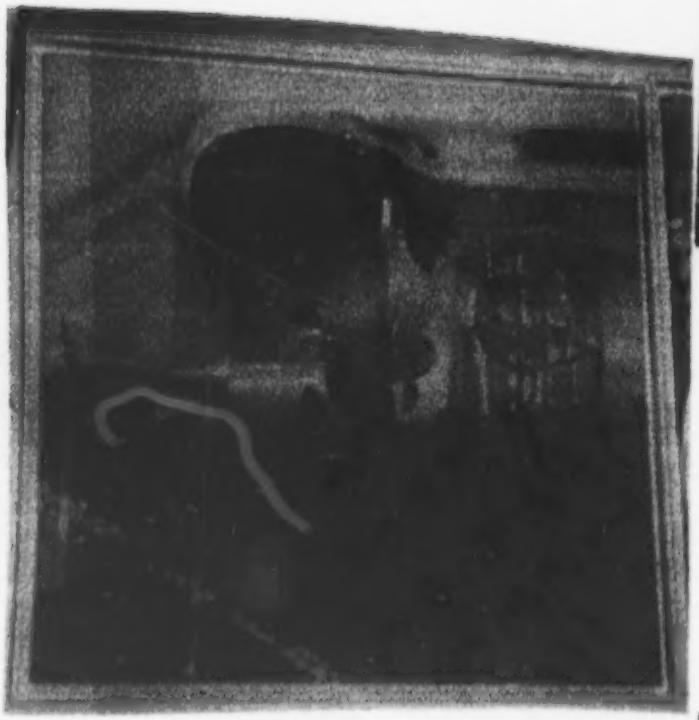

Art Studio of
Dr. Sara Sidki
Dr. Mahmoud Mabrouk

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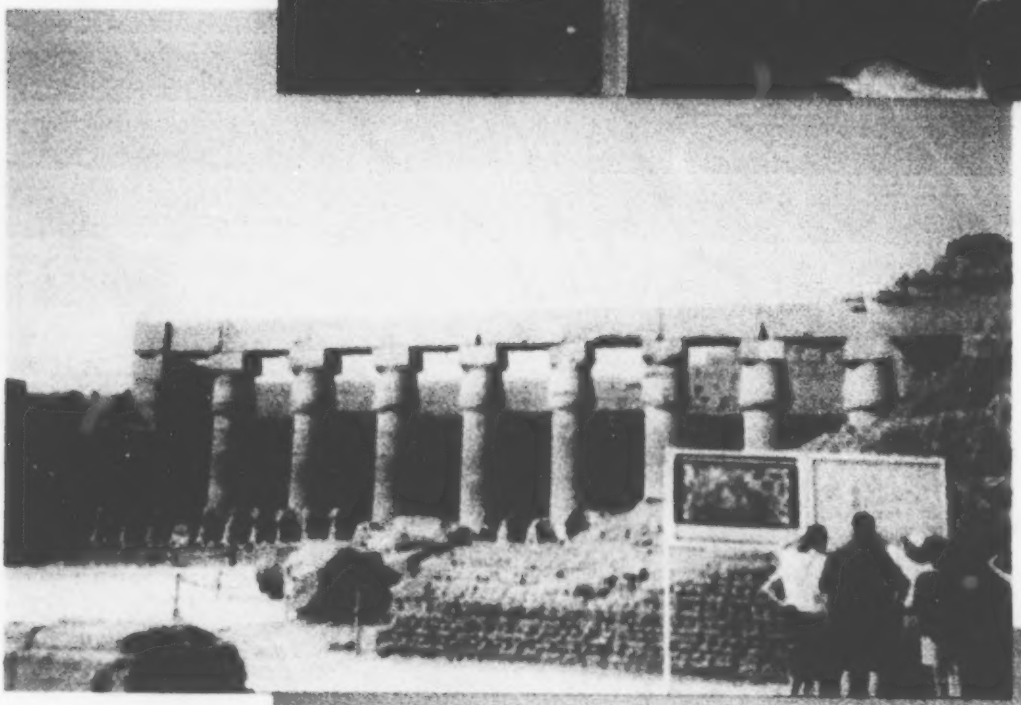
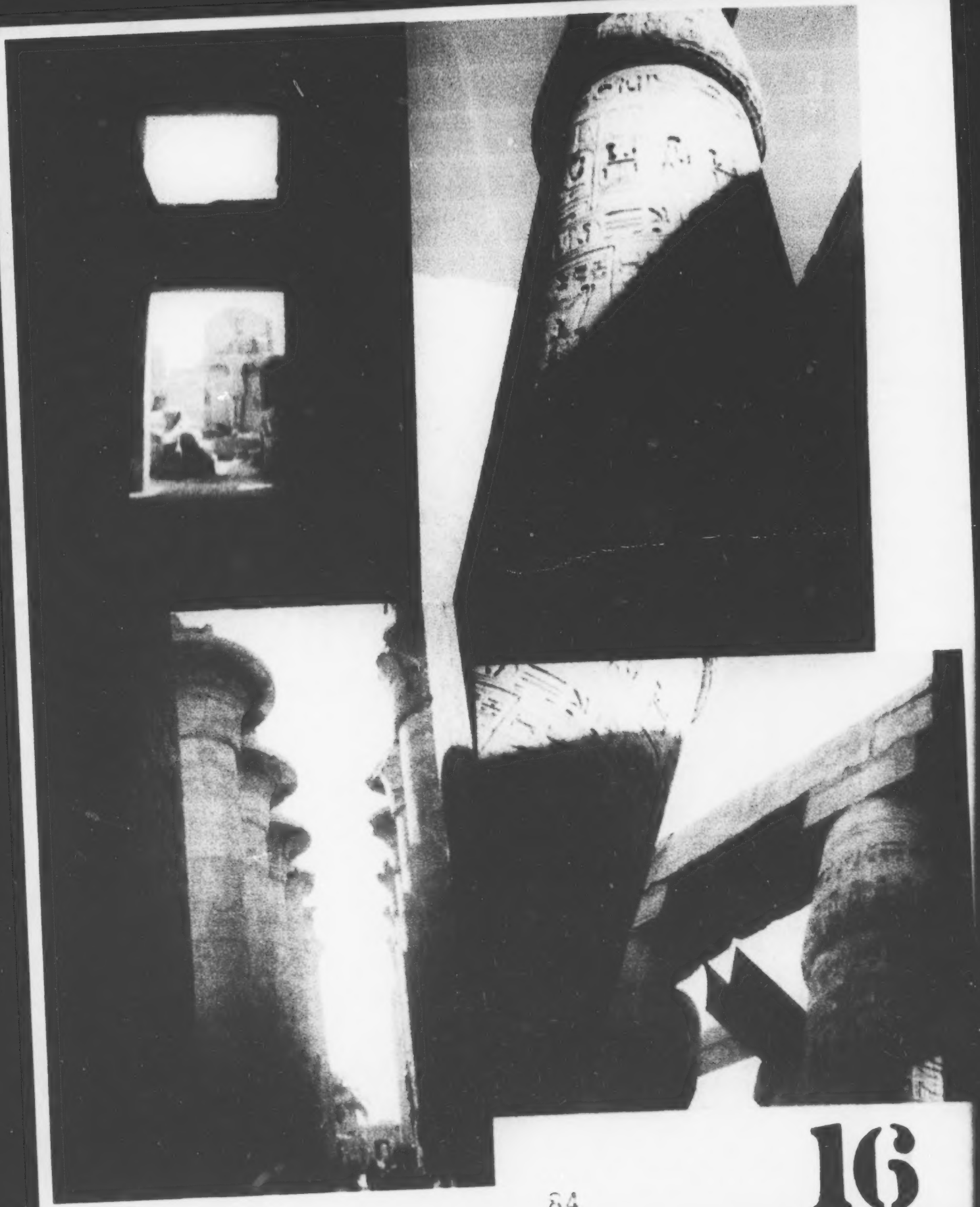
Sufi Dancing

15





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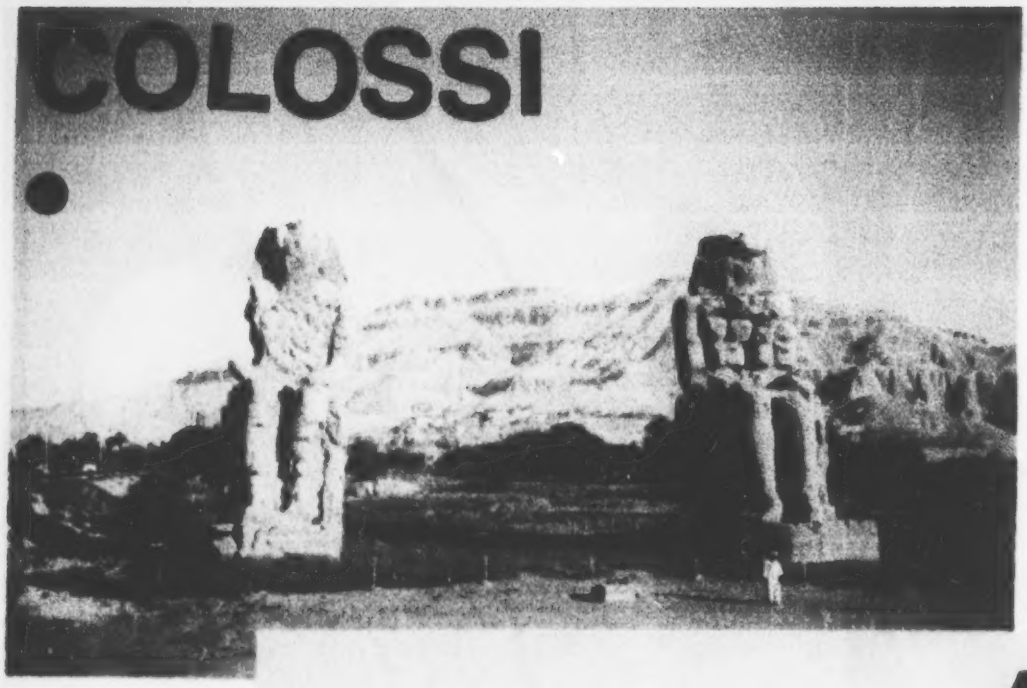
COLOSSI



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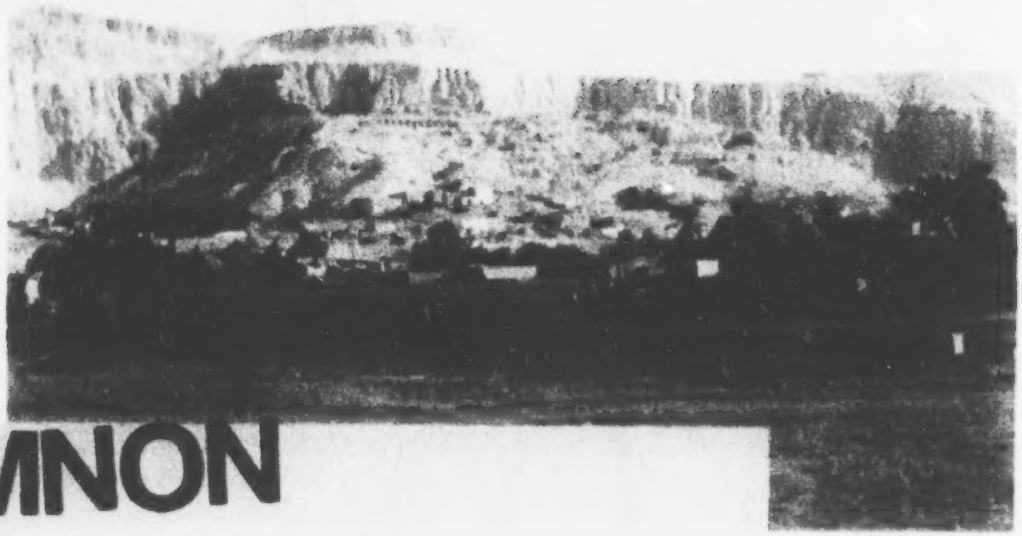

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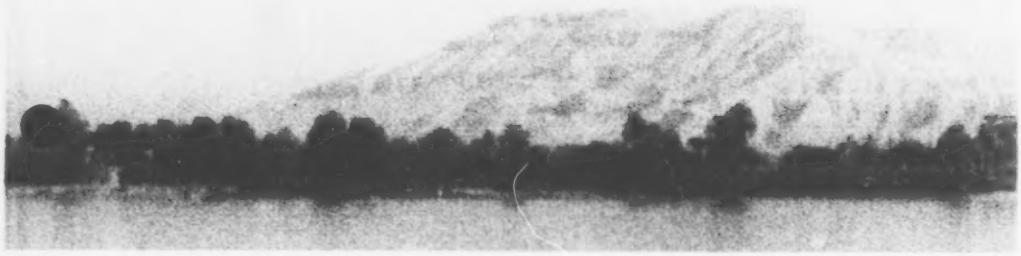
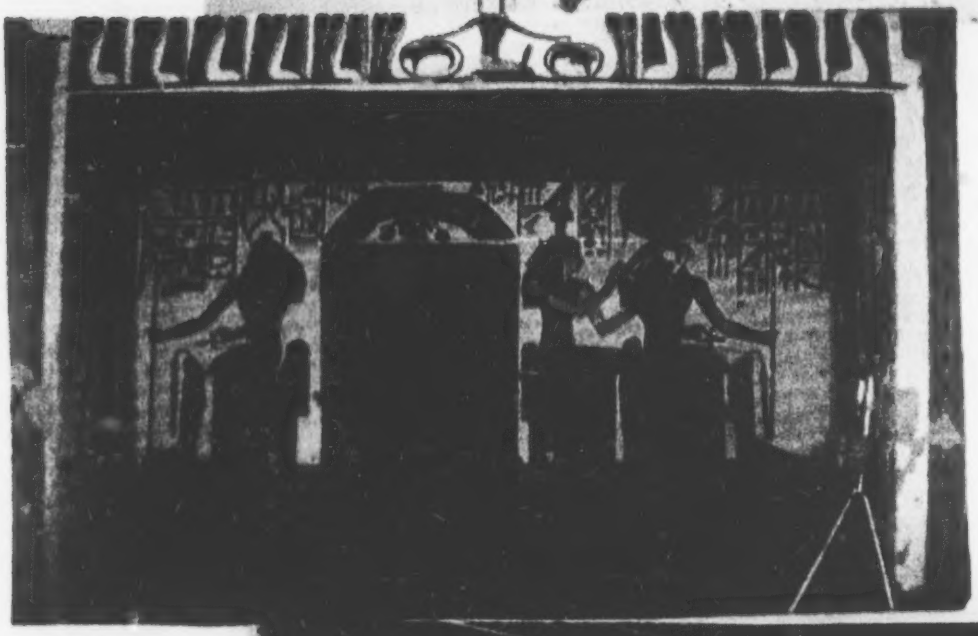
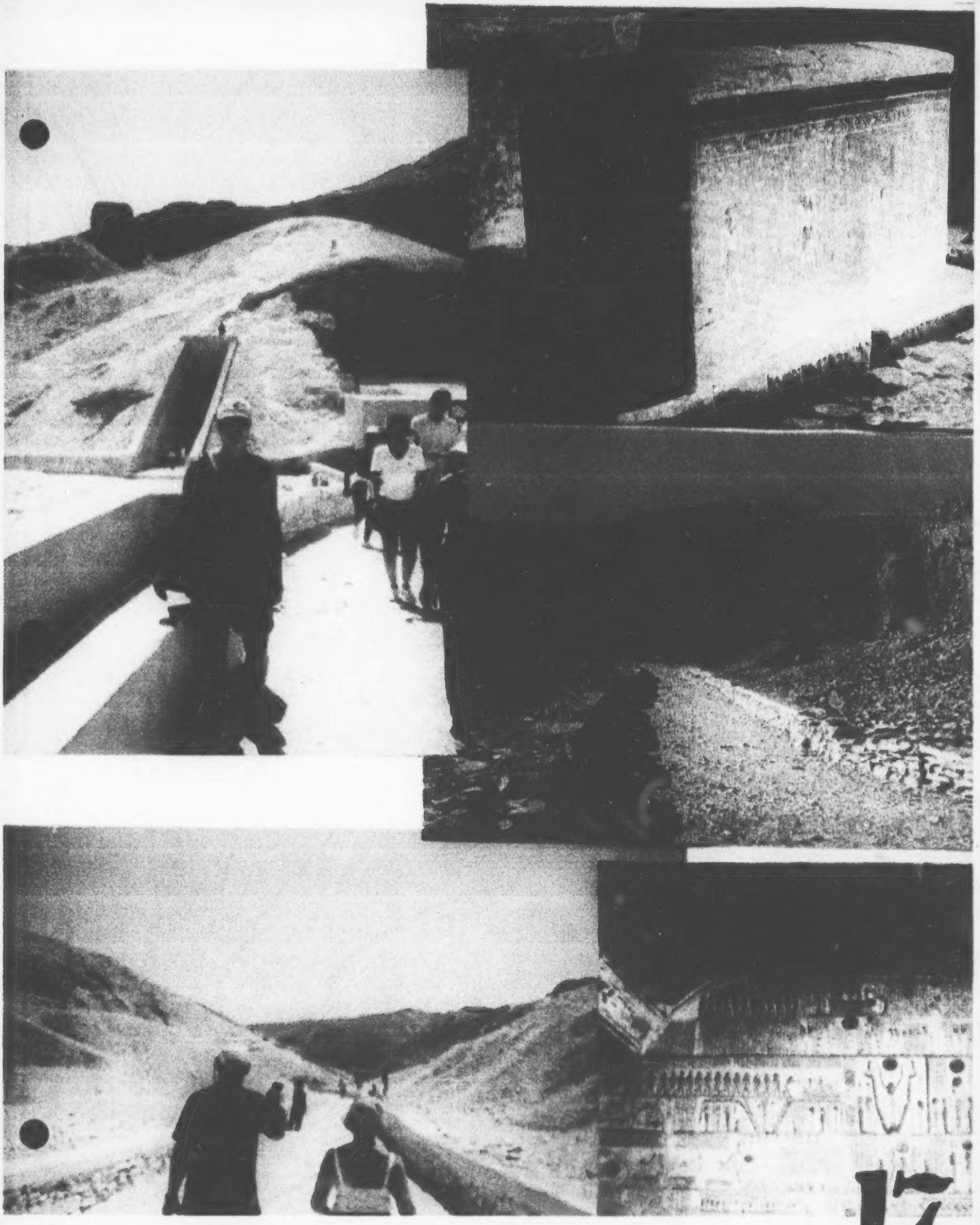


16

Tomb of
Nefertari





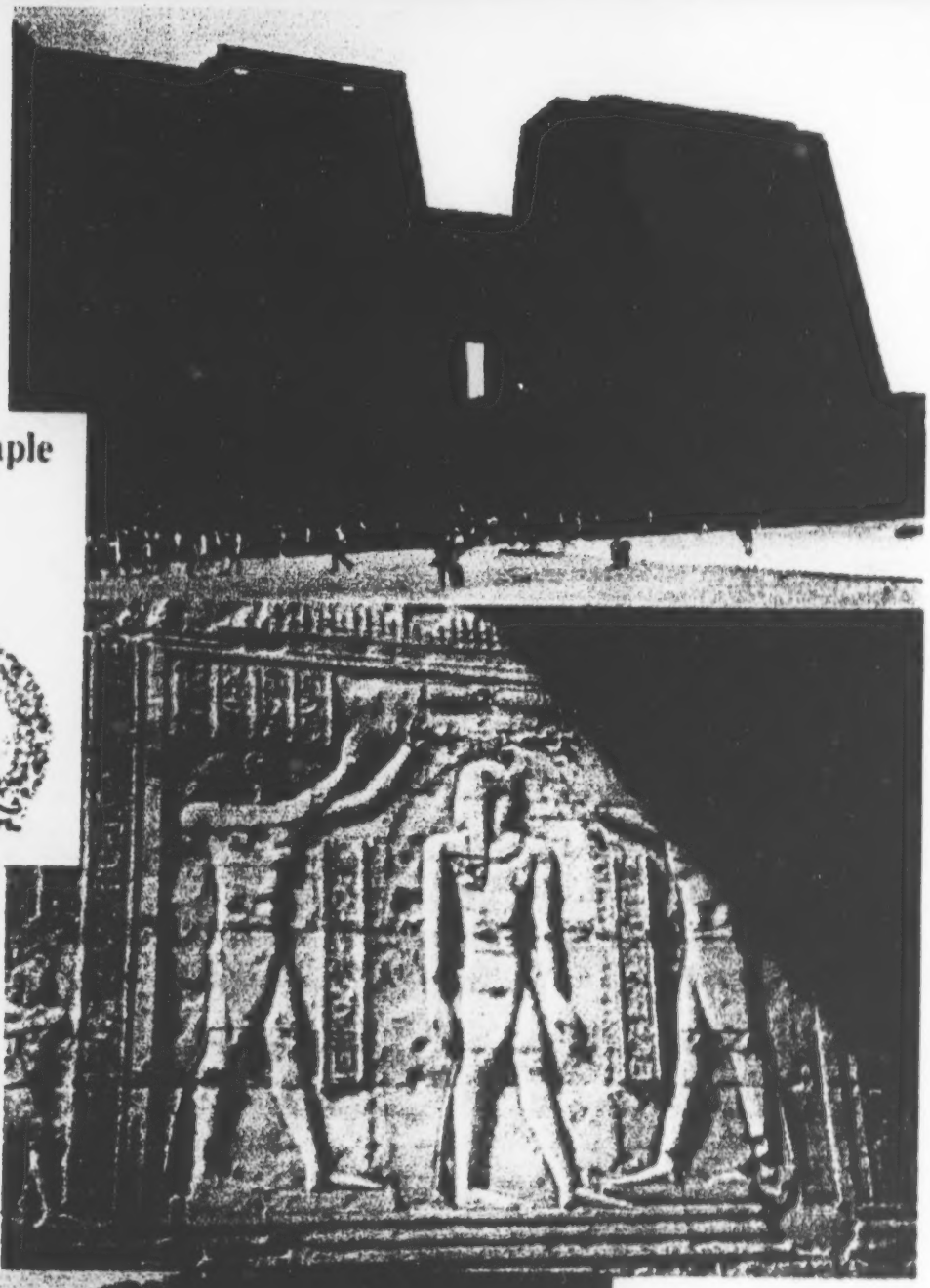
17

Tomb of Tut-ankh-Amûn

40 L.E.

Edfu Temple

20 L.E.



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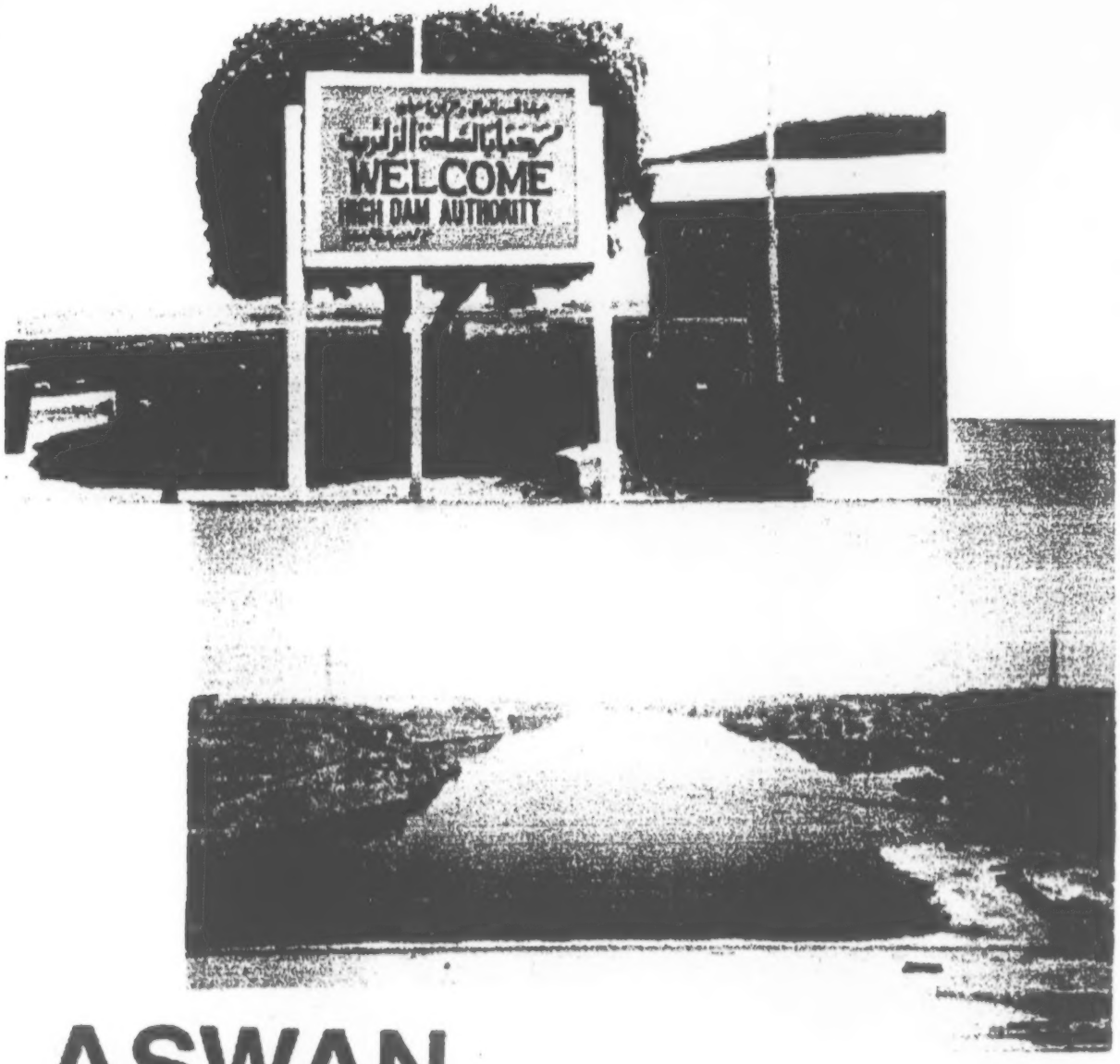

ASWAN

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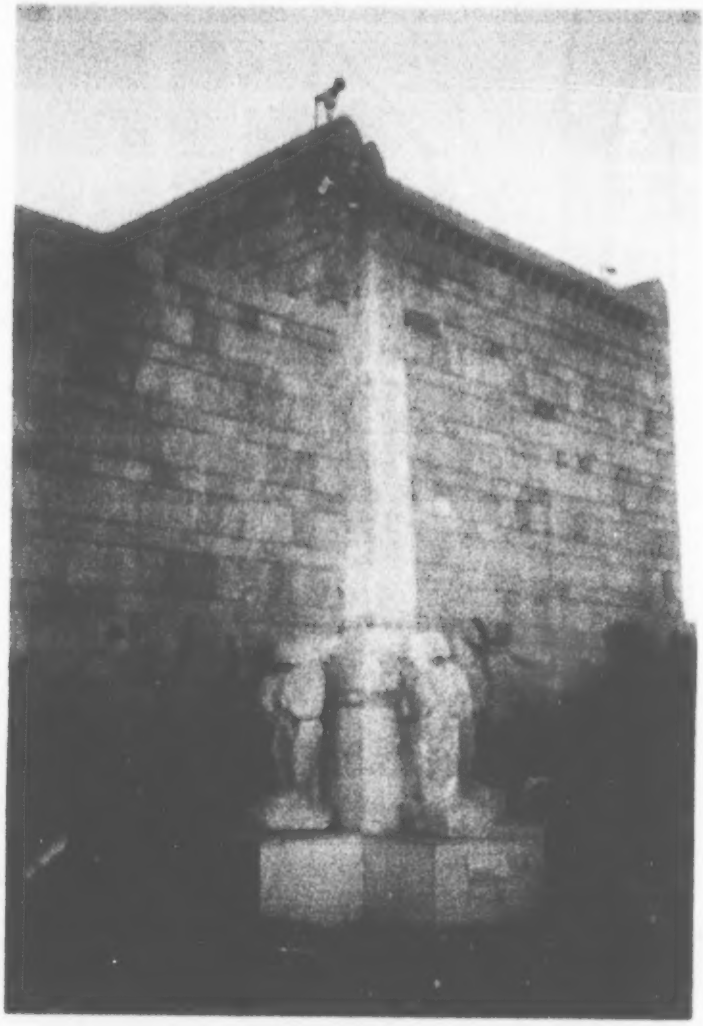

20

مصر للطيران
EGYPTAIR
LUXOR
بطاقة صعود
BOARDING PASS

FLT No. 31 DEST

SEAT No. 39B

Abu Simbel Two Temples
(THE GREAT & THE SMALL)

30 L.E. ٦٥١٧٠٤

7-14

21

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7-27

The Temple Mount

Buried underneath the huge platform of the Temple Mount is Mount Moriah, which David bought from Araunah the Jebusite. The first temple was built on the hill by Solomon. Destroyed by the Babylonians, it was rebuilt seventy years later by Ezra and Nehemiah. Two thousand years ago, Herod the Great rebuilt the temple once again, making it one of the most impressive structures in the Roman world. It was the building visited by Jesus and his disciples. Forty years later, it was the center of the struggle against the Romans in the great Jewish revolt. In the year 70, the massive building was pierced by fire by the Roman legions. The emperor Hadrian built a pagan temple on the remains, and the Byzantines built a church. Mohammed, the founder of Islam, dreamed that the Temple Mount was the site of his ascent to heaven. When the Moslems conquered Jerusalem in the seventh century, they [illegible] the Jews to pray there once [illegible]. These days

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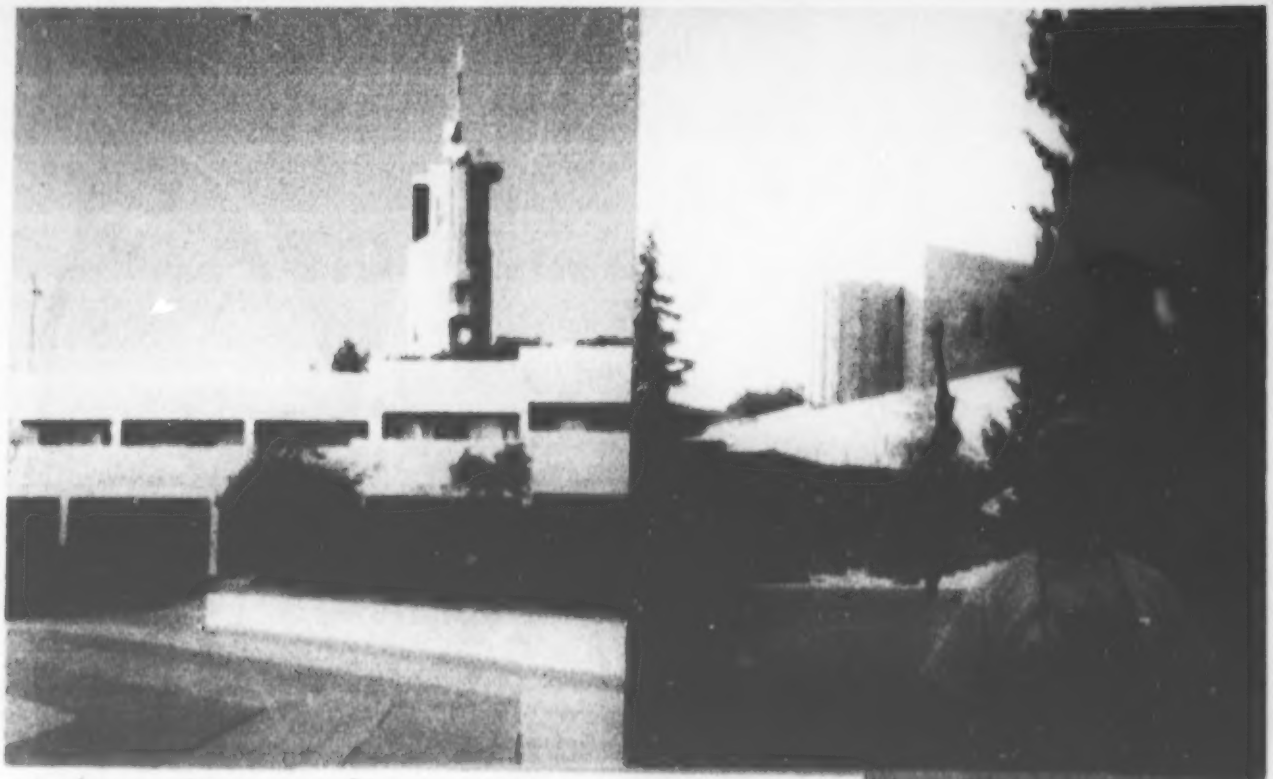
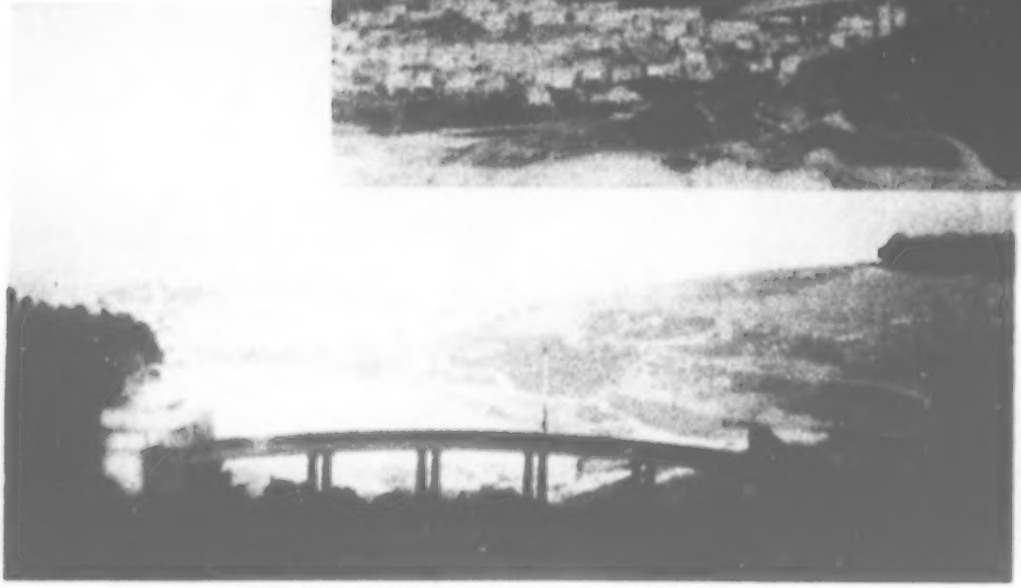
22

Mount of Olives

22



Hebrew University on Mount Scopus



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7-18

Mezuza

Viewing Window

Mosque in Jerusalem

24

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Mount of Olives

Student Military Service

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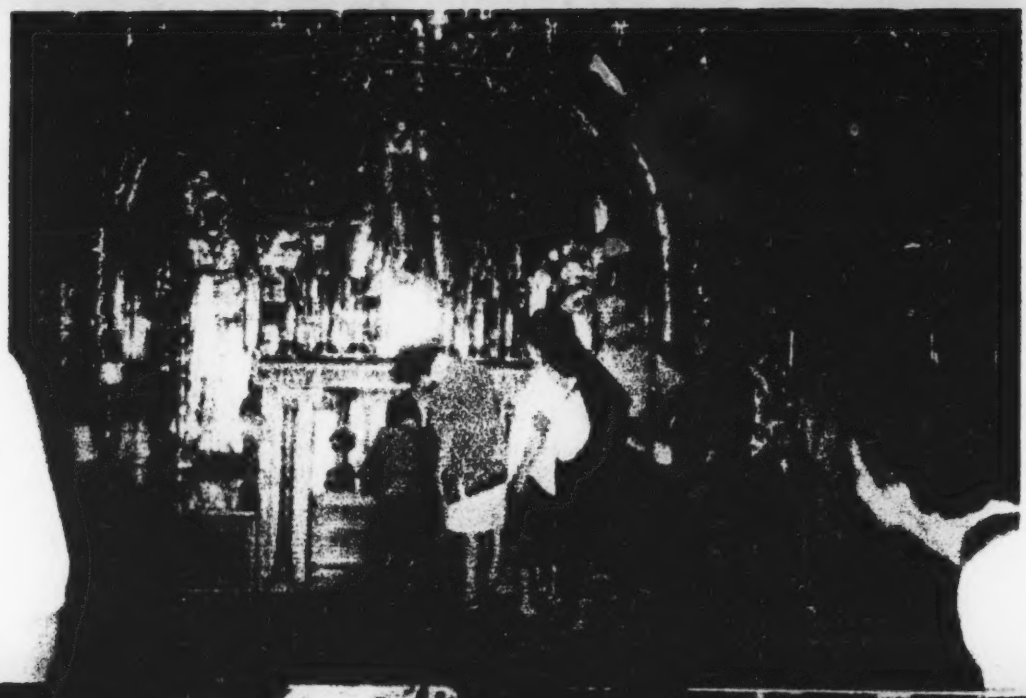

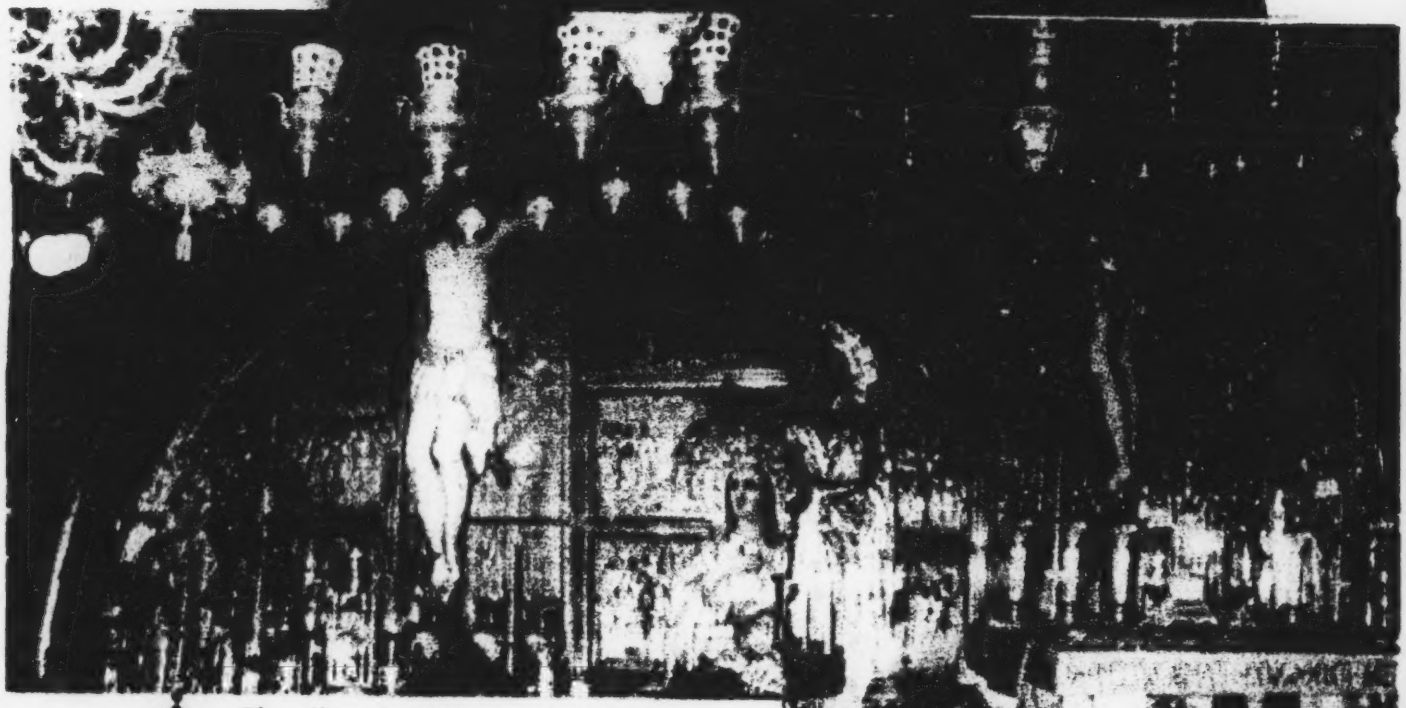

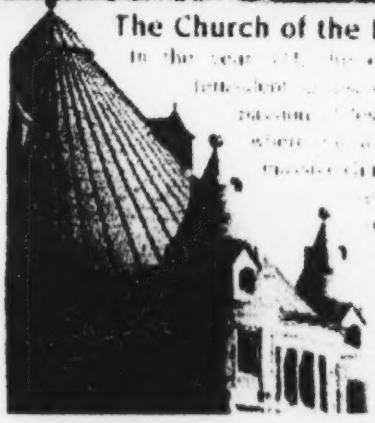

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

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Jerusalem's Synagogues

The remains of the old Hurva synagogue, destroyed by Jordanian forces in 1948, were dedicated as a memorial just the other week. Since then, dozens of synagogues have been discovered or [illegible]. Visitors to Israel's capital can see synagogues built and used by different communities, each one with its own special requirements and services. In the old city, the 18th-century Hurva synagogue and the 19th-century Istanbuli synagogue of Ha'Ezrahi ben Zakai are among the oldest synagogues in the city, and many 20th-century synagogues of note in the Jewish Quarter and others can be found. Outside the walls, there are the Hassidic synagogues in the Mea She'arim quarter, the 19th-century synagogues of the Nachlaot quarter, and the Great Synagogue with a modern design in the center of town.

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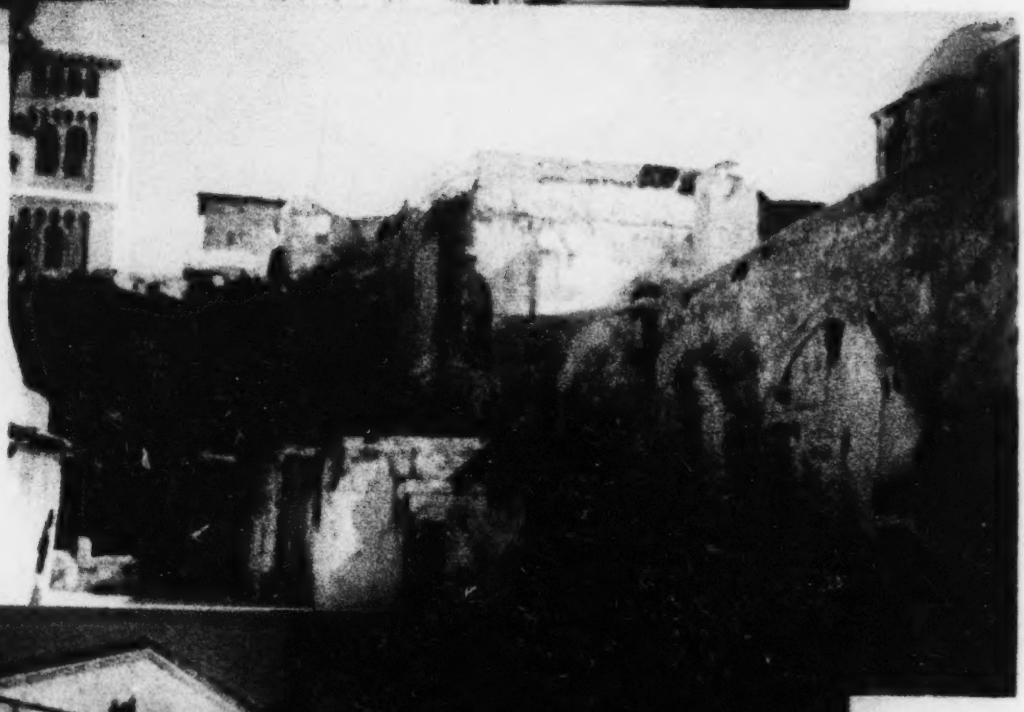

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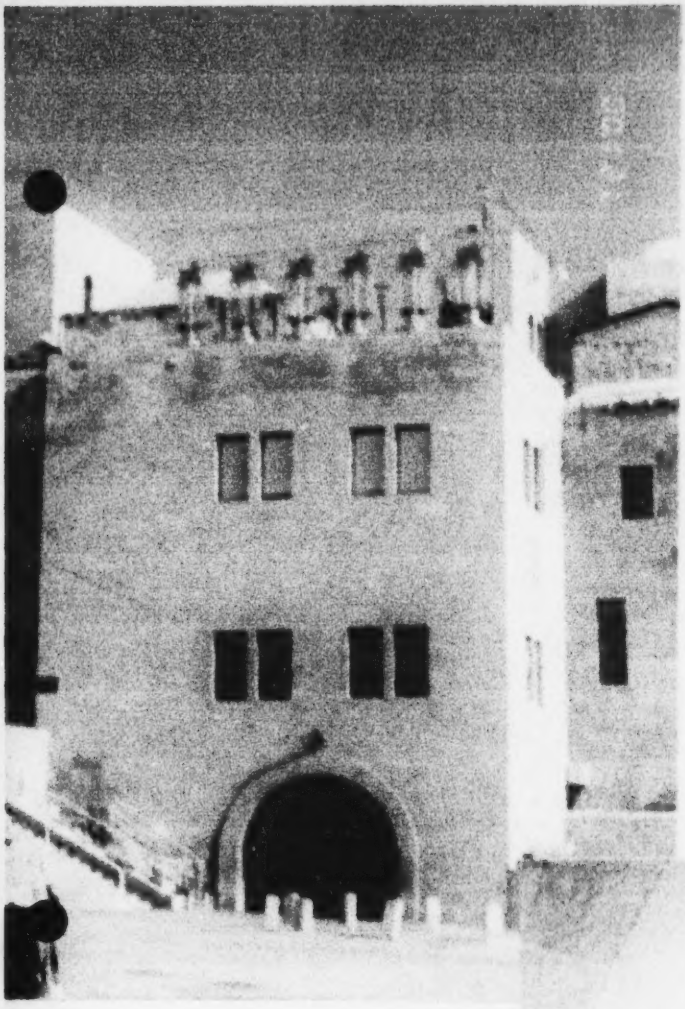
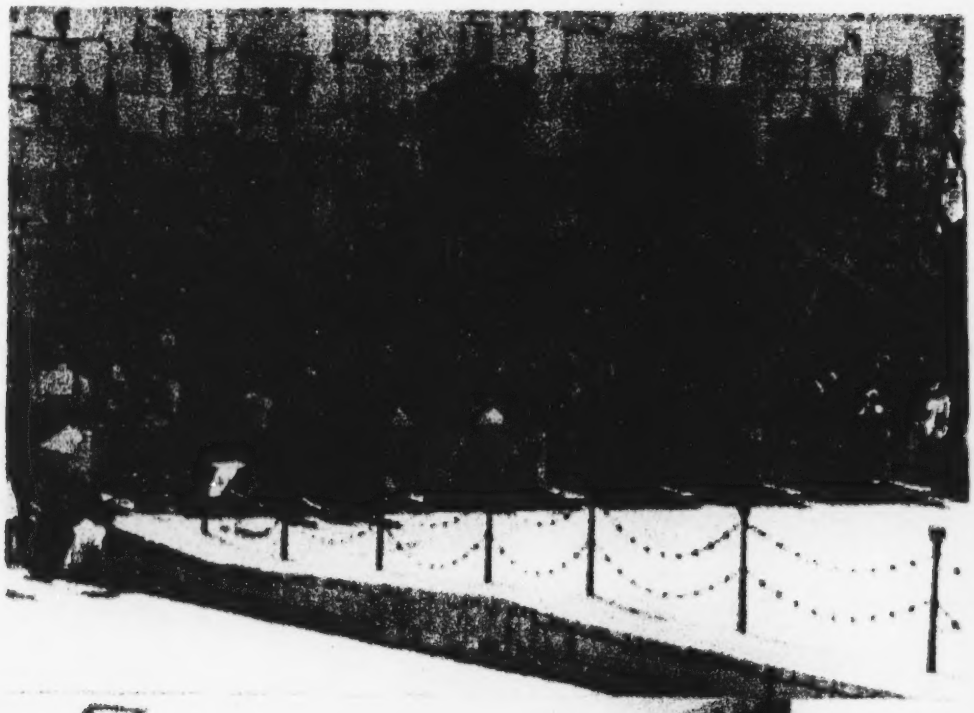
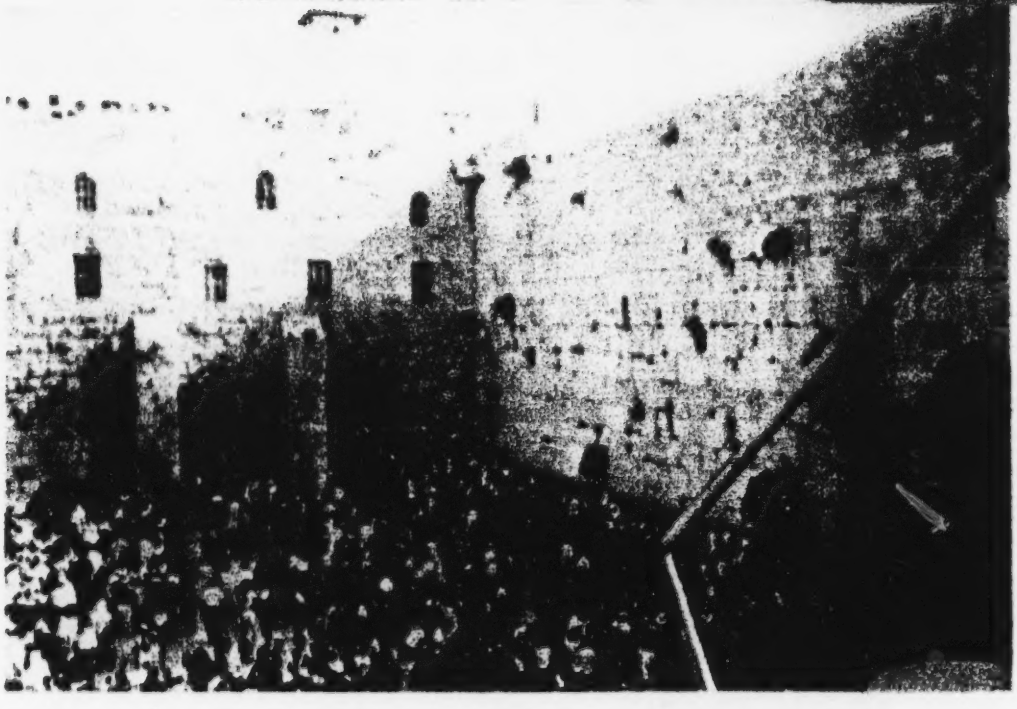


29

The Western Wall

The massive platform constructed by Herod as the base of the Temple precinct towers over the Old City. The western side of the platform, the side that was closest to the Holy of Holies of the Temple, has drawn pilgrims from all over the world for prayer for over 2,000 years. Excavations along the southern side of the Temple precinct have revealed the grandeur of Herod's work in the streets near the Temple Mount.





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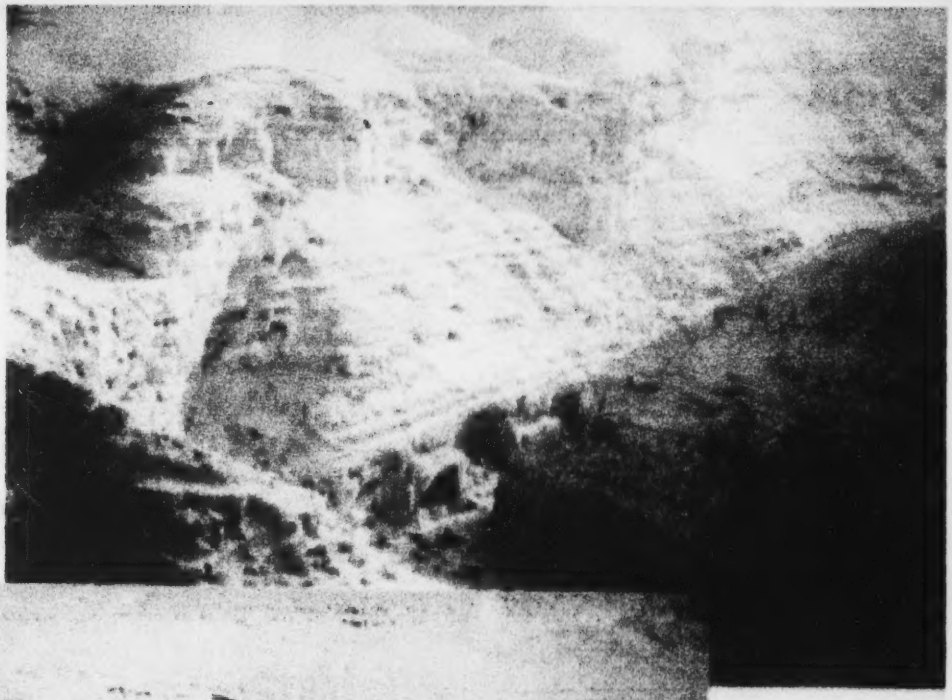
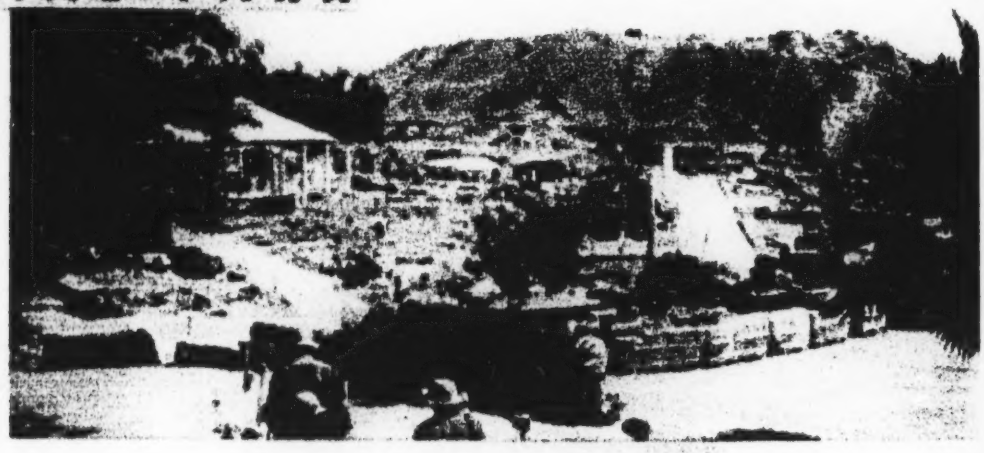


30

BET SHE'AN
NATIONAL PARK



"Palladius Street"

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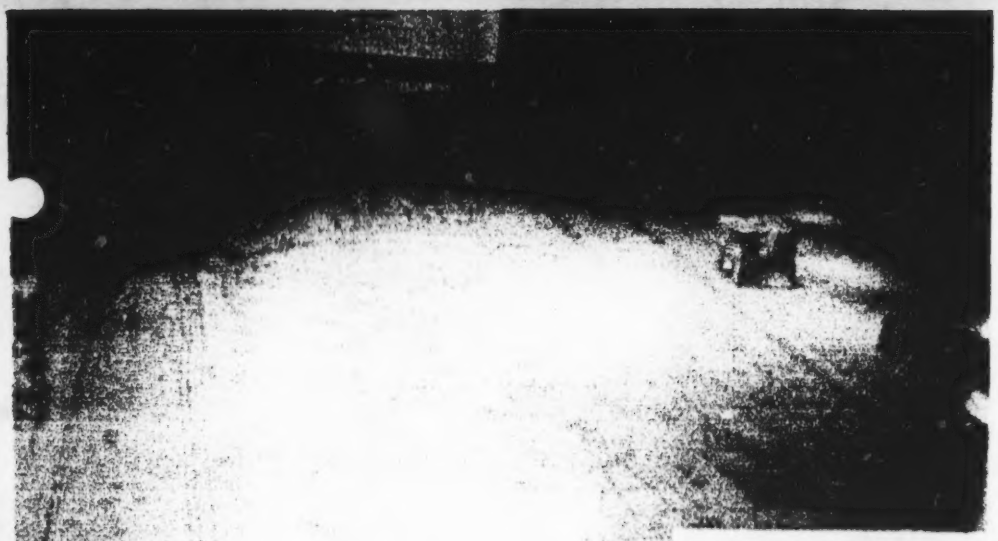
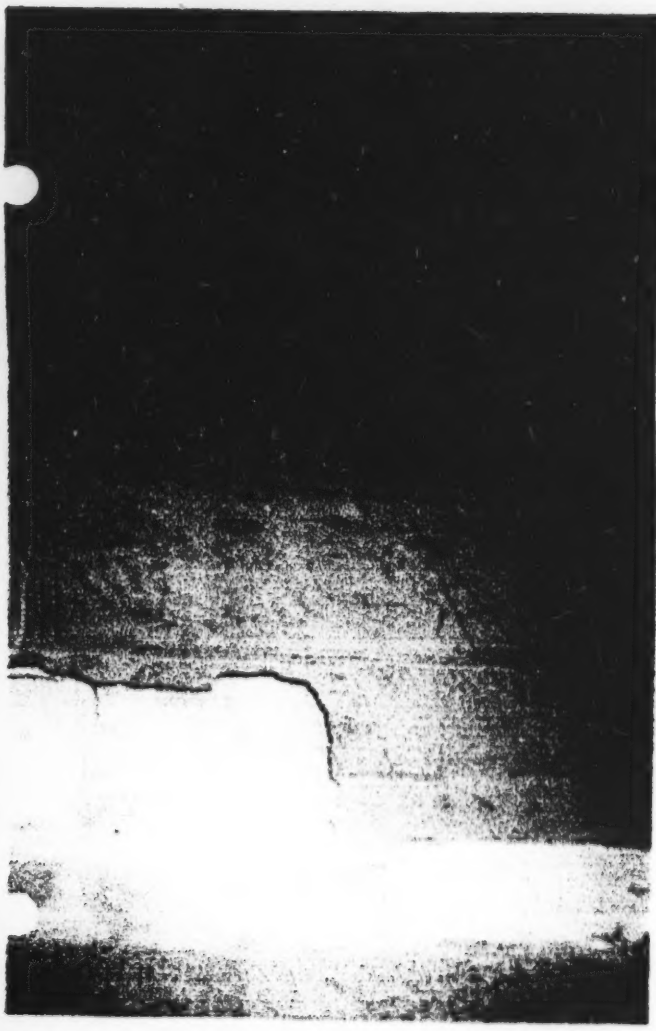


BET-ALPHA SYNAGOGUE
NATIONAL PARK



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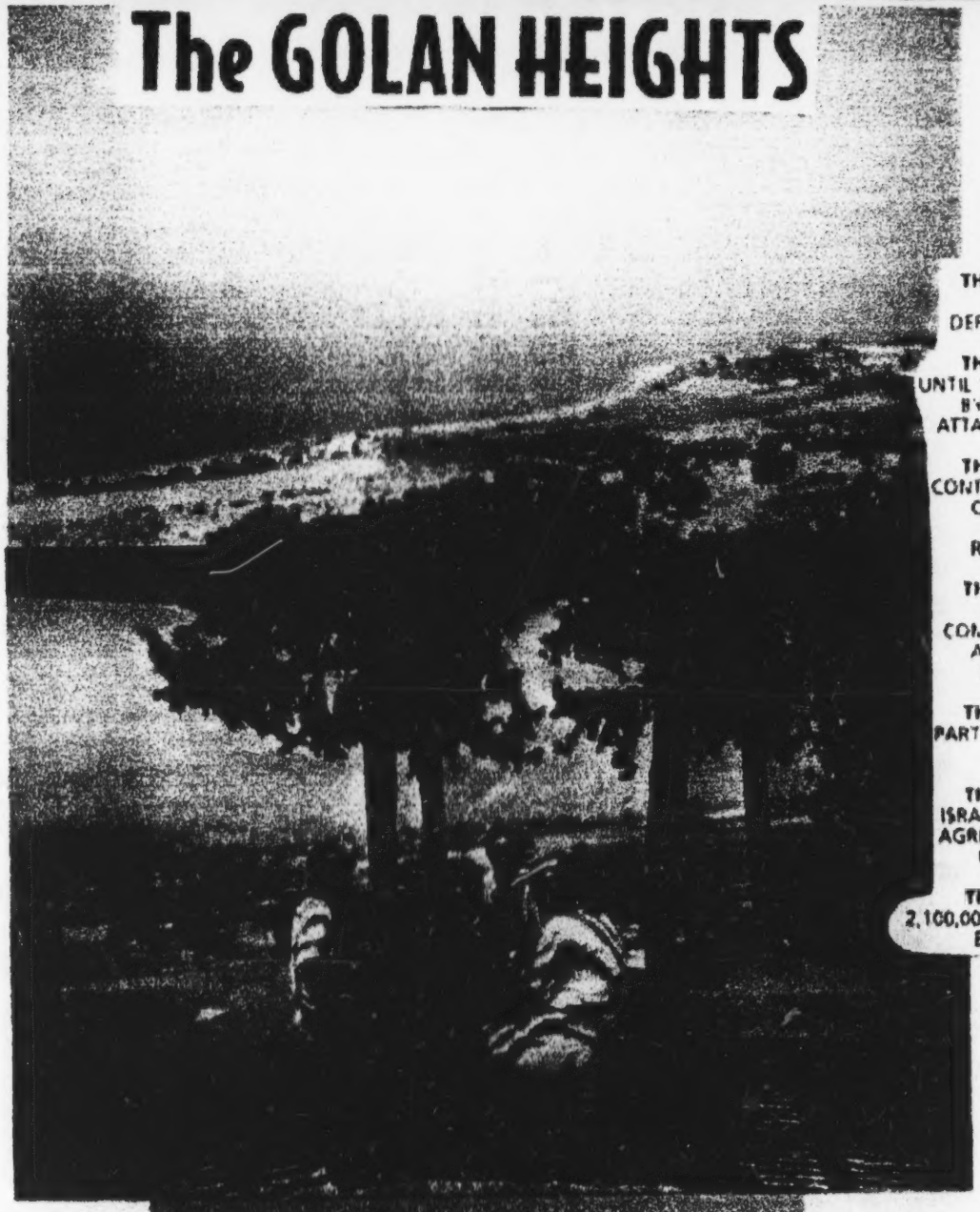
The GOLAN HEIGHTS



THE GOLAN
ISRAEL'S
DEFENSE LINE

THE GOLAN
UNTIL 1967 USED
BY SYRIA TO
ATTACK ISRAEL

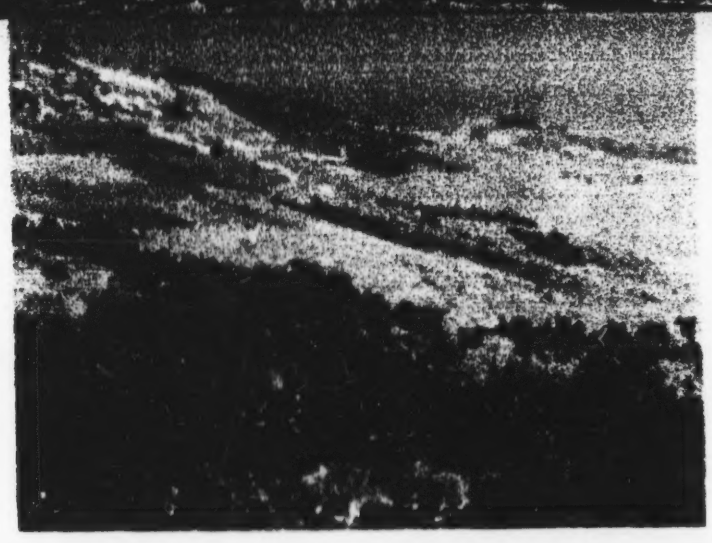
THE GOLAN
CONTROLS 30%
OF ISRAEL'S
WATER
RESOURCES

THE GOLAN
33 ISRAELI
COMMUNITIES
AND 18,000
RESIDENTS

THE GOLAN
PART OF ISRAEL
BY LAW

THE GOLAN
ISRAEL'S PRIME
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCER

THE GOLAN
2,100,000 VISITORS
EACH YEAR



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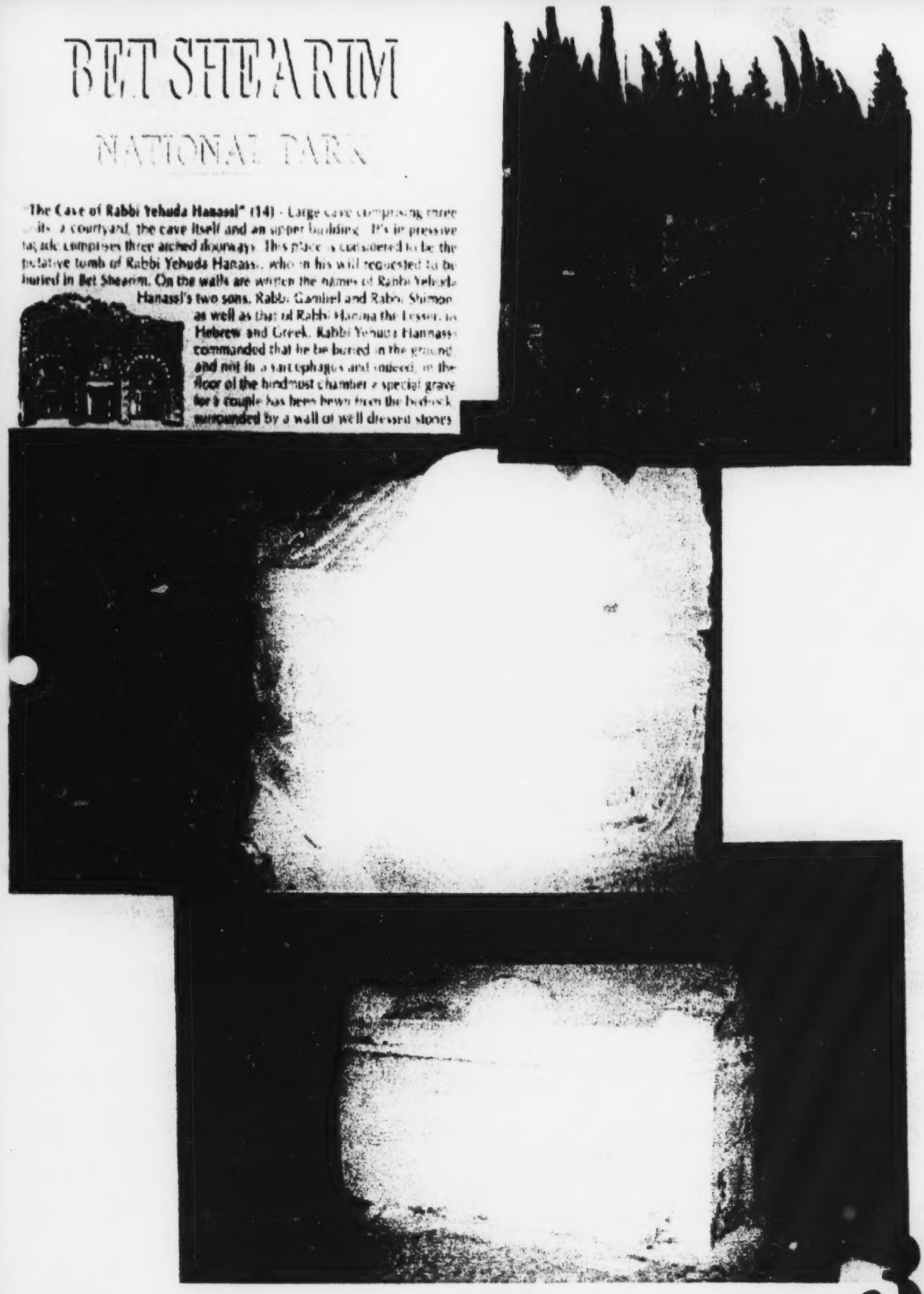
BET SHE'ARIM

NATIONAL PARK

"The Cave of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi" (14) - Large cave comprising entrance, a courtyard, the cave itself and an upper building. It's impressive facade comprises three arched doorways. This place is considered to be the probative tomb of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi, who in his will requested to be buried in Bet Shearim. On the walls are written the names of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi's two sons, Rabbi Gamliel and Rabbi Shimon as well as that of Rabbi Hanina the Lesser, in Hebrew and Greek. Rabbi Yehuda Hannassi commanded that he be buried in the ground and not in a sarcophagus and indeed, in the floor of the innermost chamber a special grave for a couple has been hewn from the bedrock surrounded by a wall of well dressed stones



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Beth Hatefutsoth

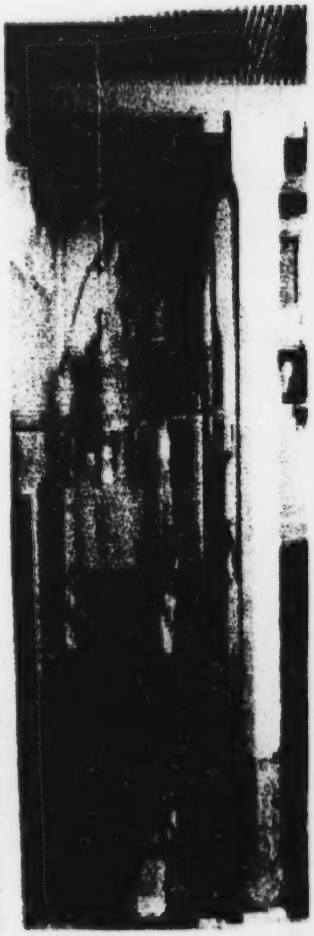
The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora

Beth Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, tells the story of the Jewish people from the time of their expulsion from the Land of Israel 2,500 years ago to the present. History, tradition, and the heritage of Jewish life in all parts of the world are brought to life in murals, reconstructions, dioramas, audio-visual displays, documentary films and interactive multi-media presentations.

The Museum, named in honor of the late Nahum Goldmann, founder and first President of the World Jewish Congress, opened in 1978.

The Permanent Exhibition

Threads common to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora as well as the diversity of the different communities, are depicted on three floors of the Permanent Exhibition. Features of Jewish life in different localities and periods are displayed in six thematic sections: *Family*, *Community*, *Faith* (featuring 18 models of synagogues from around the world), *Culture*, *Among the Nations*, and *Return to Zion*. A 25-minute audio-visual presentation in the Pinchas Paltiel Gutenberg Chronosphere, located in the same floor, gives an overview of the history of the Jewish people.



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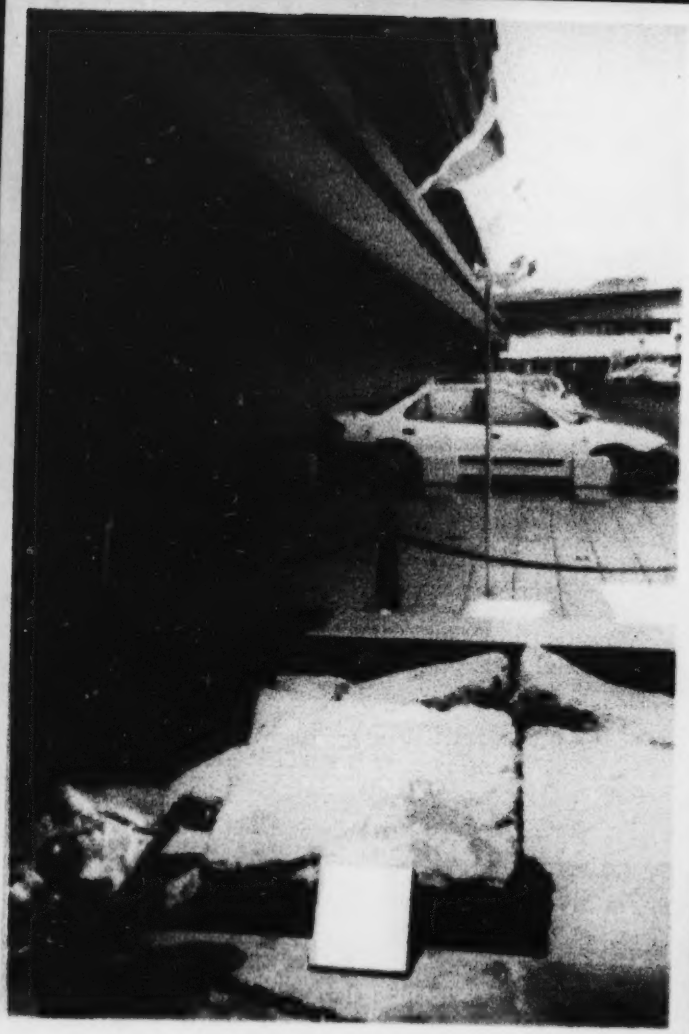

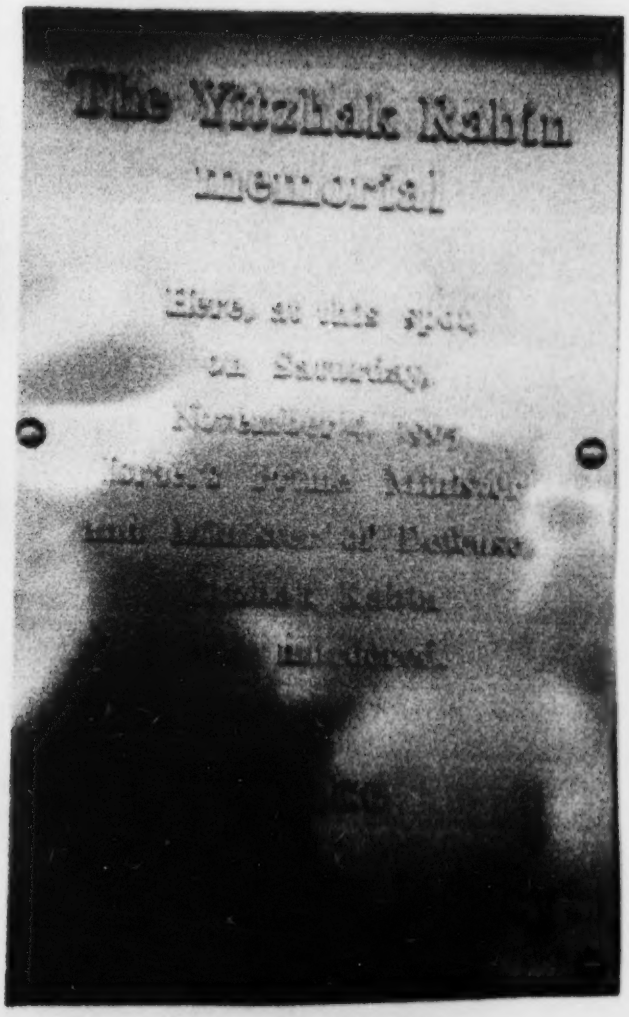

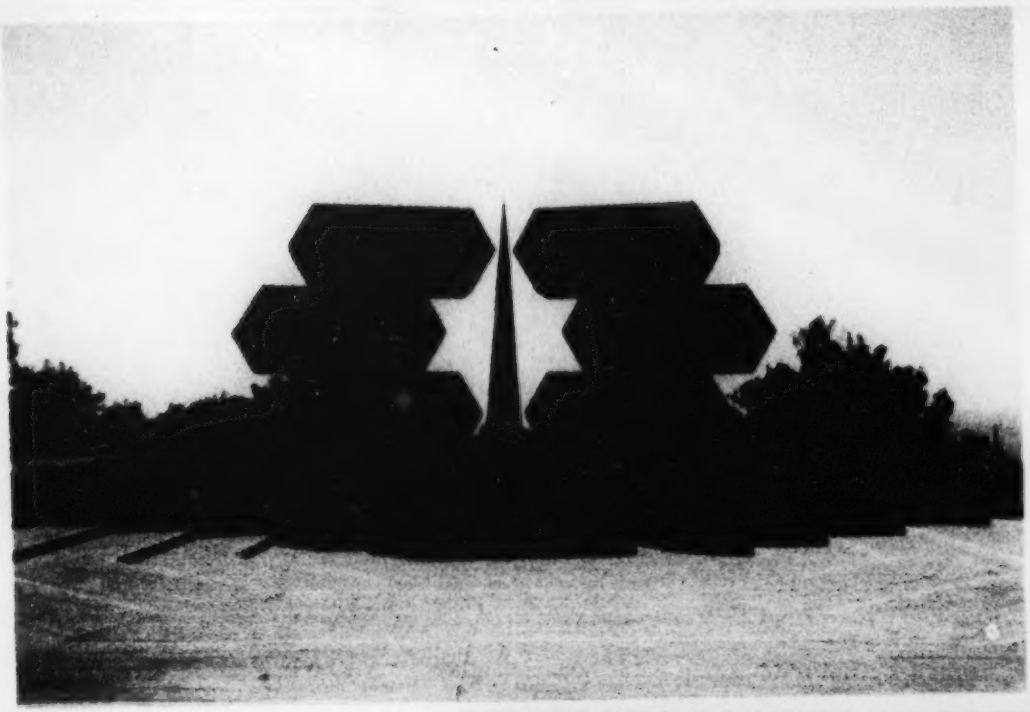

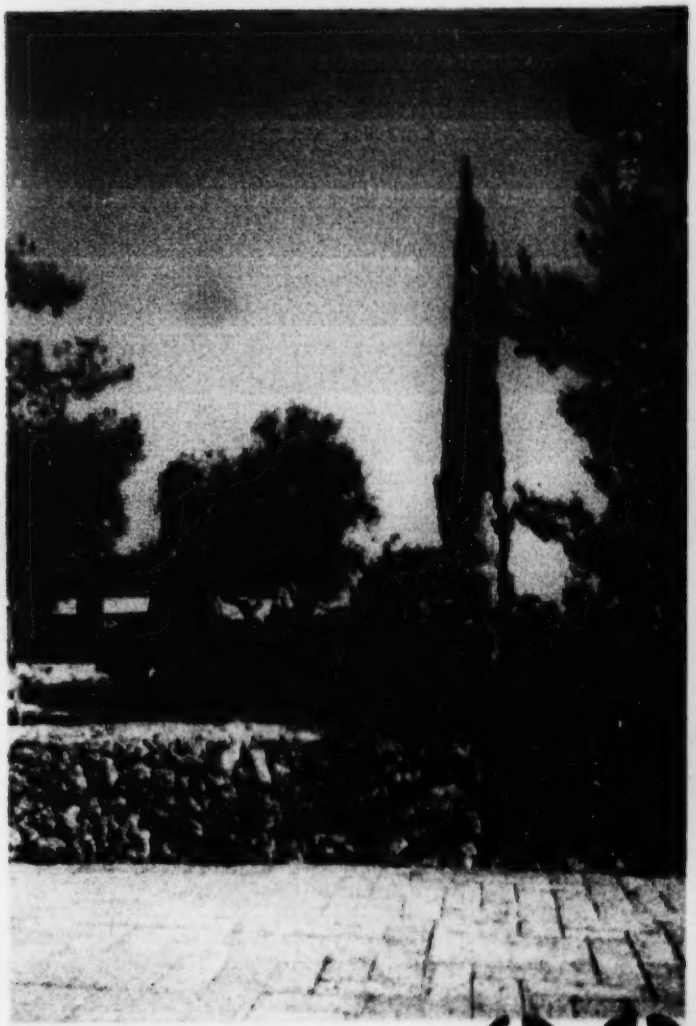

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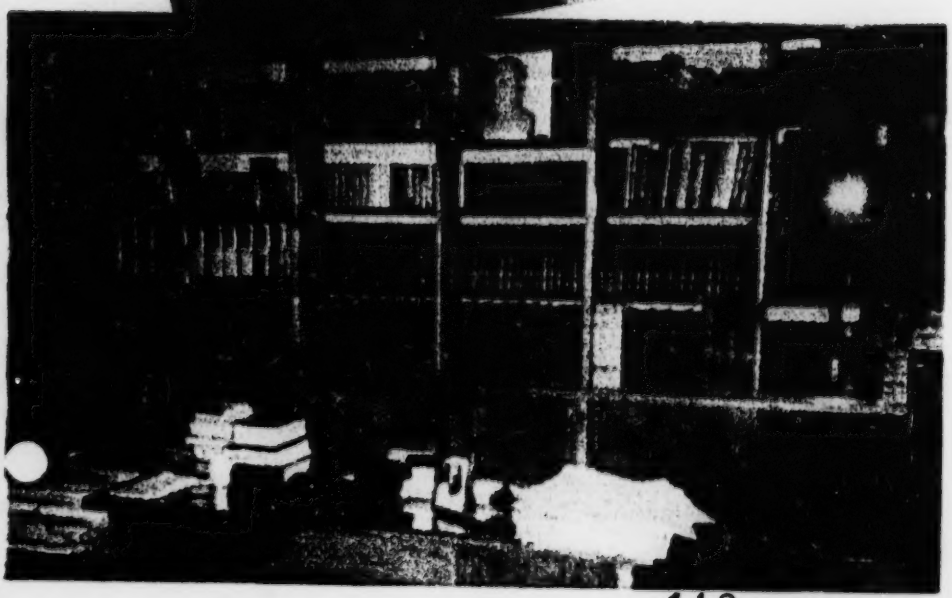
David Ben-Gurion

David Ben-Gurion is counted among the greatest personalities in the annals of the People of Israel. He was born in 1886 in Plonsk, Poland. In 1906 he emigrated to Palestine, became an agricultural worker in various places around the country. After the Revolution of the Young Turks in 1908 he went to Istanbul to study law, thus preparing himself for the representation of the Jewish Settlement in Palestine at the court of the Ottoman Empire. Deported to Alexandria on the Turkish front during World War I, he went to the United States, where he appeared as political activist, in the framework of the Jewish Legion. [illegible] of Zionist Congresses. He was then East [illegible] and returned to Israel. After the establishment of the Israel Jewish Battalion of the British Army, which [illegible] Palestine after the war, he dedicated himself to public service.

From [illegible] was the Chairman of the Jewish Agency, who negotiated, in which [illegible] the decisions, and the main part of the struggle was [illegible] the creation of Jewish Settlement. He [illegible] with the British Mandate authorities, the protector of the Zionist Movement and the Jewish Settlement communities. During the period of the White Paper [illegible] and not only called for the [illegible] of Palestine, but [illegible] very aggressively to the [illegible] of the Jewish immigration and the establishment of the right [illegible] land in Israel.



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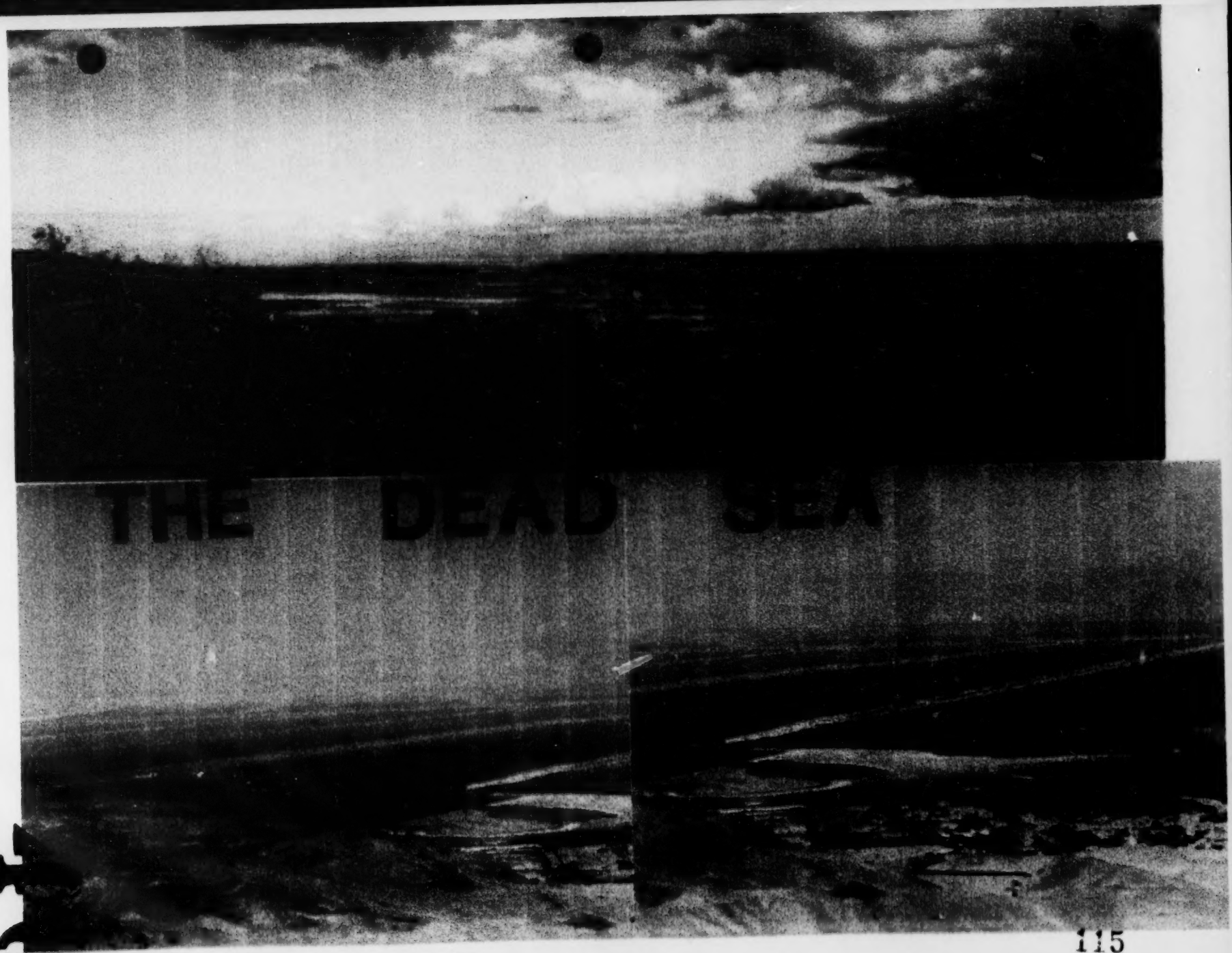

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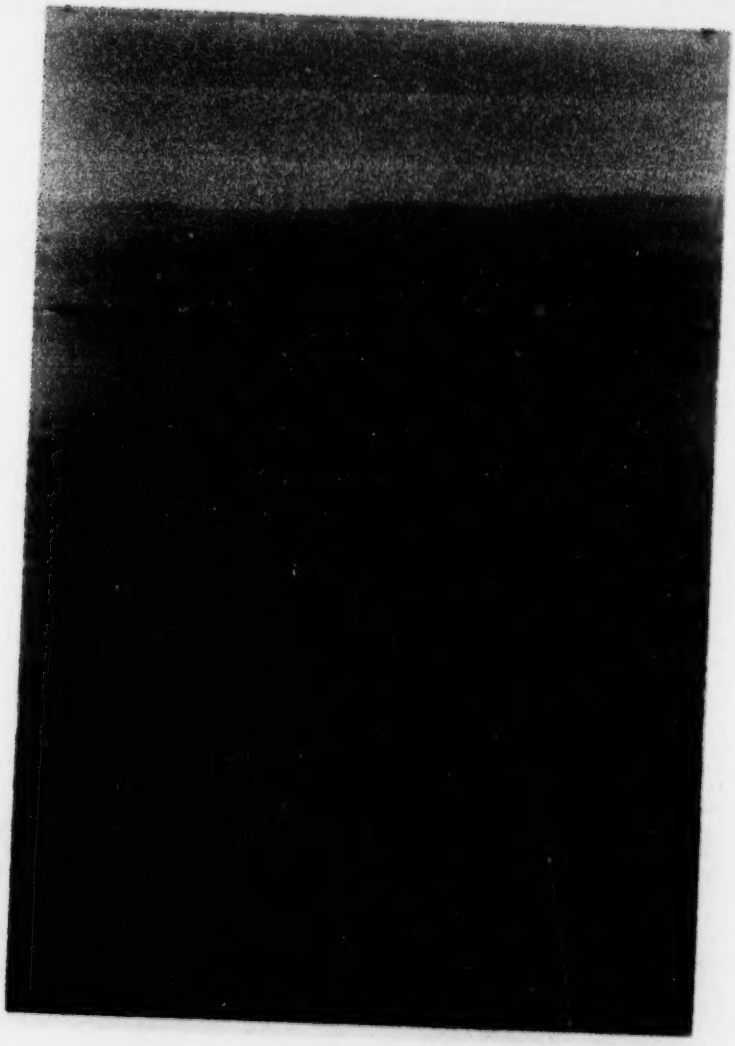

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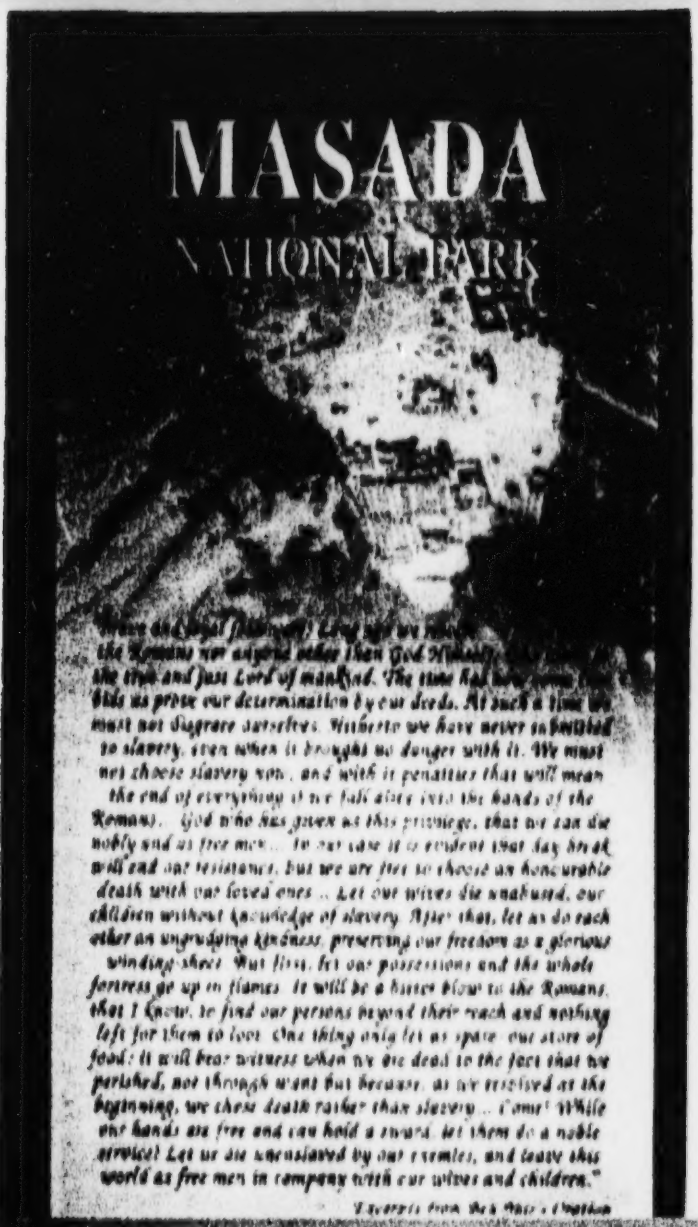

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The Synagogue

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Bathhouse Hot Room

Byzantine

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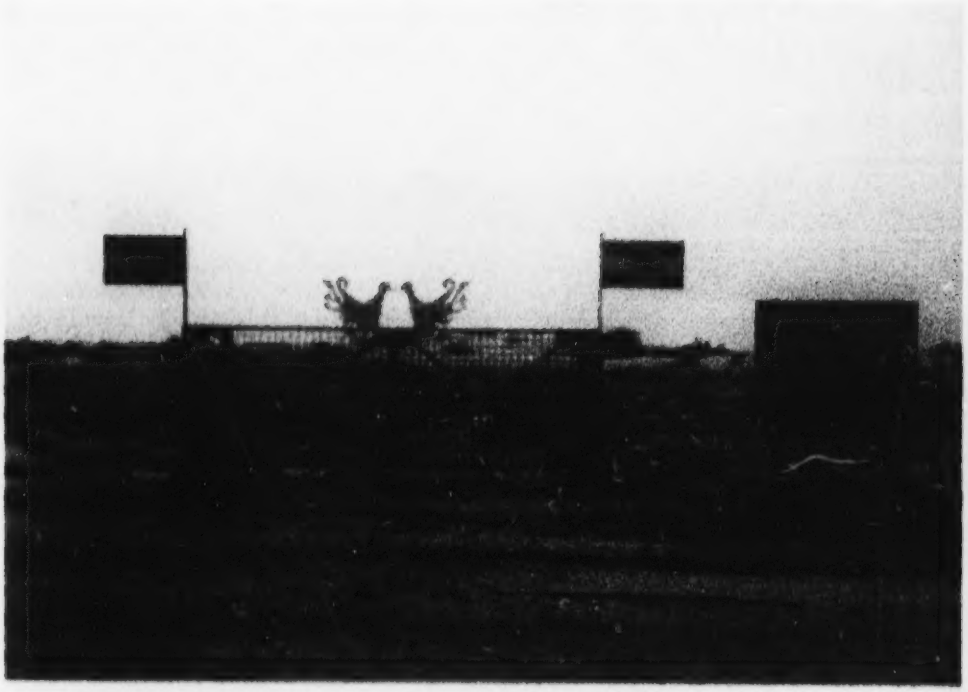

YOT VATA

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